development forum

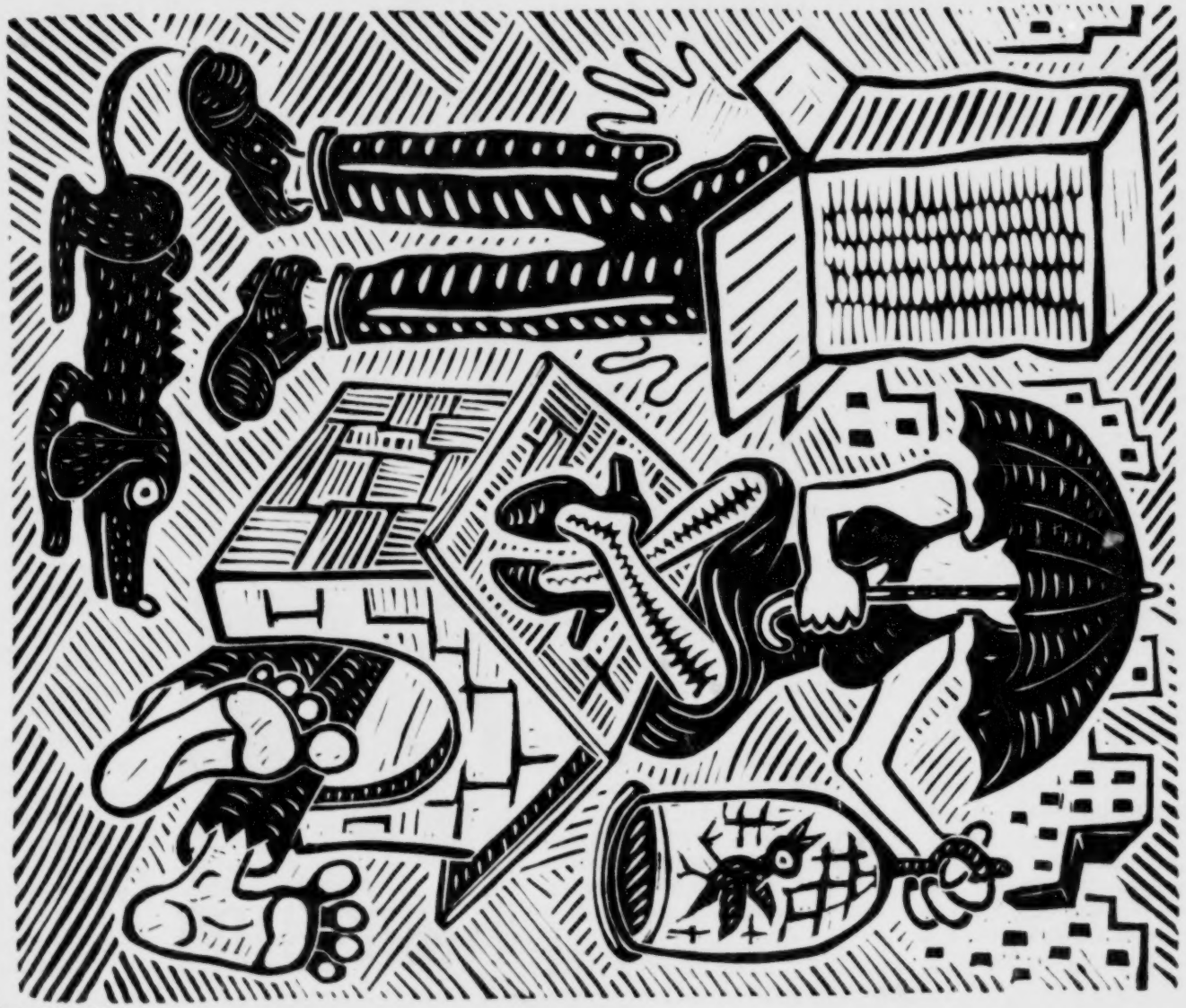
Volume 19—Number 5
September—October 1991

Published by the United Nations Department of Public Information for the Joint United Nations Information Committee

Running for cover

With hundreds of millions of people in need of decent homes, policy-makers are seeking to speed the creation of adequate shelter.

[See page 12]



Richard B. Mock

In this issue:

Africa's recovery debated

Global investment trends marginalize Third World

Telenovelas: Slipping into prime time

Reader survey: p. 23

development forum

Volume 19—Number 5
September—October 1991

Published by the United Nations Department of Public Information for the Joint United Nations Information Committee

Africa

Africa's recovery in jeopardy

Five years after the international community joined with African governments to address the continent's pervasive economic crisis, the United Nations is reviewing—and debating—the progress that has been made.

In general, the results are disheartening: by some measures Africans are poorer now than in 1986. Still, organizations such as the World Bank emphasize that substantial fiscal and economic reforms and steps toward democratization are leading to a longer-term turnaround.

In his report to the General Assembly on the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UNPAAERD), outlined below, the secretary-general identifies key problems facing Africans despite their reform efforts and calls for specific commitments from the international community for a new compact for the 1990s.

Economic and social conditions actually worsened over the five years of the UNPAAERD period, despite far-reaching actions and reforms undertaken by African countries, including notable progress towards democratization.

Although UNPAAERD fell far short of its goals, efforts in some countries to improve economic management and preserve social programmes have succeeded in halting, and sometimes reversing, the decline in economic and social conditions, and in many countries have created the means by which increased resources can be used more effectively. These successes, however, have been achieved at a high social and political cost, and African countries will not be able to sustain them unless additional resources are made available to ensure that significant gains soon become apparent to the African people.

Under UNPAAERD, African governments agreed to give priority

Continued on page 14

This issue

In our efforts to improve *Development Forum*, we welcome new ideas and suggestions from our readers. For an objective and meaningful assessment of your views, we are undertaking a global readership survey on page 23 in all three language editions. Please complete this survey, whether you personally subscribe or not. You can cut it out for mailing. Or, if there are others who read your copy of *DF*, you may wish to photocopy the survey to keep the newspaper intact. As a token of our appreciation for your participation, we offer a complimentary copy of the 1991 edition of the United Nations poster-map of the world, prepared in commemoration of United Nations Day in October.

This survey will update our reader profile and help determine the usefulness and overall value of the newspaper to our readers. It will also contribute to improving our subscription lists and, hopefully, to a significant increase in paid subscribers.

Development Forum is fighting hard to survive the sluggish world economy and its cruel impact on publications. Although inaugurated as a free-of-charge journal in 1973, we can no longer retain that policy in the wake of rising production costs and other financial constraints. We must now rely on paid subscriptions, particularly in the industrialized world and for developed country expatriates living in the less developed regions. Their help will subsidize those unable to pay from the Third World. You will find an invitation to paid subscriptions on page 2.

Our "Voices for Development" column (page 3) is an exchange of views between Mostafa K. Tolba, the executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme, and Kofi Awoonor, the president of the Group of 77 at the General Assembly. While it is agreed that the upkeep of the environment is the responsibility of developed and developing countries alike, the Group of 77 leader defends the interests of the developing world.

Take special note of the United Nations inter-agency appeal for $400 million in special emergency aid for the Horn of Africa (page 8). The consolidated appeal was released on 5 September in response to the appalling human tragedy caused by conflict, drought, hunger and other complexities. Acute food shortages and famine are widespread, severely endangering the lives of millions of people in the region.

Transnational Corporations

Tracking investment flows

During the 1990s, foreign direct investment will take on an increasingly crucial role in shaping the structure of the international economy. Current trends, however, indicate that its contribution to economic development in the Third World will be increasingly marginal.

Foreign direct investment measures the overseas investments of transnational corporations ("parents") in foreign companies ("affiliates") which may or may not be wholly-owned by the parent. As such, it is distinct from official development assistance and commercial bank loans. Since 1983, annual flows of foreign direct investment have increased far more rapidly than world trade and world output, reaching nearly $200 billion in 1989, for a total world stock of $1.5 trillion.

According to the *1991 World Investment Report*, published recently by the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, developing countries remain relatively marginalized in this rapid rise of global foreign direct investment flows. Of total outflows in 1990, $163 billion were invested in developed countries and $30 billion in developing countries.

Although flows of foreign direct investment to developing countries increased by 78 per cent in absolute terms between the periods 1980-1984 and 1985-1989, their share in total flows fell from 25 per cent to 19 per cent.

Furthermore, flows to developing countries are narrowly targeted, with 10 developing countries accounting for three-fourths of total inflows to developing countries.

Current trends indicate a strengthening of the position of certain developing countries and regions, especially in light of the emerging regional core network strategies of transnational corporations (*see box*).

Continued on page 4

Culture

Marketing soaps: Telenovelas slip into prime time

By Geoffrey Fox

Flooded with slick television programming from the United States and Europe, developing countries often feel overwhelmed by foreign cultural products. Today, however, producers of Latin American soap operas, known as telenovelas, *are being remarkably successful at countering this invasion, seducing audiences and penetrating tough markets in industrialized countries with their steamy exports. And audiences in developing countries love them too.*

Television viewers in France, China, Iceland and Angola follow every episode, and in Italy, *telenovelas*, the Latin American serials of love, betrayal and violence, are so popular they crowd out local productions and make up 17 per cent of all imported programming. In Portugal, slang from a former colony, Brazil, has entered the mother country's daily speech from the *telenovelas*. In Spain, where they are called *culebrones*, or "super snakes", because of their great length, a Venezuelan *telenovela* provoked howls of protest from Spanish directors and actors when it won a major award as the best TV programme of 1990.

Like their "soap opera" counterparts in the United States and Europe, *telenovelas* provide an irresistible blend of sex, drama and strong emotions to attract their growing international following. While hardly high culture, they do possess special attributes that explain their ability to compete.

Certainly, low prices and sophisticated marketing are key to the international success of the best-selling Brazilian, Mexican and

Continued on page 18

***Actors Amanda Gutiérrez** and Victor Cámara are lovers in Venezuela's* telenovela *"Paraíso".*

Economic security and world order

Dear Editor,

The correspondence between H.W. Singer and Mahbub ul Haq (*DF*, May-June 1991) about the proposal for a United Nations Economic Security Council underscores the argument that it is far easier, and more practical, to initiate economic programmes and peaceful relationships through regional concepts than trying to achieve the same result on a global scale where too many vital interests are involved. In other words, it is far better to work from the bottom upwards within circles of mutual interest until these interests eventually converge within a global context.

The role of the United Nations, therefore, should be to encourage regional peace and development programmes from a fund which could be called the "United Nations Peace and Development Fund". Regions could then be encouraged to apply for aid, knowing in advance the conditions that would apply and that the help would be on a similar scale to that of the Marshall Plan that proved so successful in restoring peace and prosperity to Western Europe after the Second World War.

The Marshall Plan owed its success to the realistic assumption that aid must be within a well-conceived plan assisted by an expert secretariat, which, in turn, insisted on the plan being agreed to by all the countries involved.

The United Nations can now perform a similar role. Its approach to economic security could be implemented in a step-by-step, region-by-region approach to world order. If this approach to world order was adopted, the industrialized countries would be reassured that "their voice will not be drowned in a large unweighted forum" (as feared by ul Haq in his letter) because most decisions would be taken in the region. The role of the United Nations should be more of a co-ordinator, facilitator and conciliator through its many agencies. International disputes, then, would be decided more by law than by the Security Council.

Resort to the idea of collective military security, unfortunately, is not the answer. It has proved to be a recipe for collective insecurity, undermining trust and confidence between nations and providing the excuse to wage the Korean and Gulf wars. It has also resulted in our resources being used for defence instead of removing the causes of war and promoting the institutions of peace. While conflict can never be eliminated, we can, and must, learn to ritualize our differences under the law before war eliminates us.

Ted Dunn,
77, Hungerdown Lane, Lawford, Manningtree, Essex CO11 2LX, United Kingdom.

The writer is the author of *A Step by Step Approach to World Peace—Region by Region*, published by Goodday Publishers, P.O. Box 60, East Wittering, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20, United Kingdom.

First things first

Dear Editor,

I was disturbed to see reference made to the United Nations' new report *The World's Women 1970-1990* as "the first ever statistical portrait of women" ("The world's women: A portrait in numbers", *DF*, July-August).

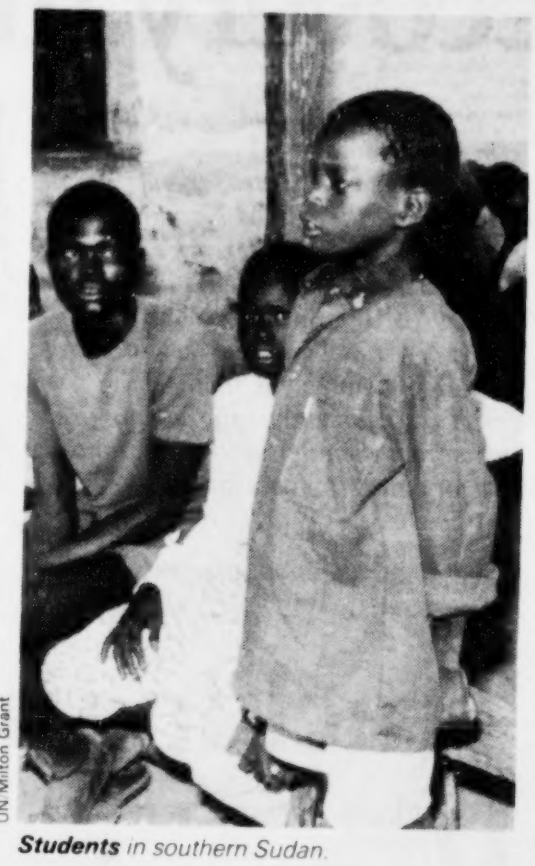
Six years ago, our organization produced a 44-page report, *Women . . . A World Survey*, which itself was the handbook of the 1985 United Nations World Conference on Women in Nairobi. Authored by Ruth Leger Sivard, this report brought together a wide range of statistical information on the situation of women throughout the world, focusing on changes in their status in the 1950-1985 period. The book covered all the aspects of the subject mentioned in your article as having been addressed in the new United Nations report—unprecedentedly. To the best of my knowledge, as a researcher on the project, *Women . . . A World Survey* was the first report of its kind.

Fallon Mullaney Moursund,
research analyst, World Priorities, 3013 Dumbarton Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20007, United States.

Peace in Sudan

Dear Editor,

We Africans feel very sad indeed to read your article "Displaced students going without education in Sudan" by Neimat M. Bilal (*DF*, May-June 1991). The fate of young Philip Loca and other Sudanese students from the south who are being deprived of schooling as a result of the ongoing civil war needs the attention of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations.



UN/Milton Grant

***Students** in southern Sudan.*

In Africa there is poverty, drought, famine, maladministration and religious intolerance. It is a serious problem in Africa that the dominant ruling tribe often makes its governmental appointments based on religious prejudices.

The Christian south of Sudan is at war with the dominant Muslim north. It may be necessary that a separate state be carved for the Christian south so that educational needs are met for all and religious and cultural differences are better tolerated. Until this is done, I fear, there can be no peace in Sudan.

Chief Ade Adetona,
P.O. Box 6924, Lagos, Nigeria.

Appropriate technologies

Dear Editor,

We were interested to learn of the innovative electric generator projects in Nepal and India ("Micro-hydros: Nepal sees the light" and "Four-legged electric generator", *DF*, May-June 1991). Our organization is working both in hilly areas and flatlands where these energy-producing technologies could be appropriately applied.

We are contacting the authorities behind these projects. We would also like to hear from other readers who are involved in similar programmes.

M. Mondal,
Pallikatha (A Rural Development Organisation), 48/29A South Sinthee Road, Calcutta 700050, West Bengal, India.

DF *as education tool*

Dear Editor,

I have been reading and using *DF* since 1974 and am impressed by the quality of its information. As a contribution to its promotion, I have led many friends to subscribe.

I know that in my country *DF* is used as an English textbook and manual for the training of the general public, students, secretaries, computer engineers, primary and secondary schoolteachers, medical doctors and even diplomats.

As an African I cannot emphasize enough how important the information offered in your newspaper is for us. As we struggle with illiteracy and the lack of educational resources, you provide us with helpful ideas of what to do and how to go about it.

Lazare N. Kouamé,
Your English Academy for Research, Training and Technic Services (YEARTTS), 09 BP 830, Abidjan 09, Côte d'Ivoire.

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed my two-year subscription fee. I find *Development Forum* very interesting and informative and use it as a source for items to submit to the in-house bi-monthly publication of my local church. I feel the United Nations needs all the publicity it can get.

Bruce A. Barr,
205-1188 Yates St., Victoria, B.C., Canada.

Looking for advice

Dear Editor,

Your newspaper is a valuable resource in our efforts to provide social services and training in agriculture and social development aimed to help the poor in rural and urban areas. We would like to hear from other organizations in Africa to develop our activities. We are looking for advice, ideas and reference material which would allow us to launch our new programmes.

We offer high school dropouts professional training in electronics, carpentry and dressmaking. We also provide the poor with food for babies, milk, medicine and clothing.

We are in charge of the rehabilitation of drug addicts and alcoholics. We offer services for the handicapped and are in the process of reinforcing our network for women in the communities.

Gérard-Yungi,
Director, Bureau de la Commission socio-culturelle pour le développement (ONG), P.O. Box 8, Kinshasa 20/Ndjili, Zaire.

Subscribe Now

development forum

NAME

ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS ☐ Home ☐ Office

CITY POSTAL CODE COUNTRY

☐ 1 year for US$ 25 ☐ 2 years for US$ 46 ☐ English ☐ French ☐ Spanish

Method of payment: ☐ Cheque ☐ American Express/MasterCard/Visa

CREDIT CARD NO. EXPIRATION DATE

SIGNATURE DATE

Please check the one box which applies to you:

For individuals:
☐ Economist
☐ Editor/Journalist ☐ Print ☐ Radio ☐ TV
☐ Elected official
☐ Extension agent
☐ Government official
☐ Information official
☐ International businessperson
☐ International official
☐ NGO member
☐ Researcher
☐ School teacher
☐ University professor
☐ Other:

For institutions:
☐ Government
☐ International organization
☐ Library
☐ National organization
☐ NGO
☐ University
☐ Other:

Return this form, and write for information on bulk subscriptions, to:

Development Forum

Circulation Department, PO Box 5850, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163-5850, USA • Fax (212) 963-1381

Seeking common ground for environment and development

By Mostafa K. Tolba

It is now clear that the battle to save our planet will not be won through piecemeal approaches. We need not only to confront the worsening symptoms of ecological stress, but also to tackle their underlying economic and development causes. Since the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, we have argued that environment and development are not competing disciplines but represent two sides of the same coin. Taken in the broadest sense, this requires that the industrialized nations, plagued by pollution and overconsumption, and the developing nations, facing poverty and underdevelopment, need to work together to find viable, global solutions to our environment and development problems.

UN/Milton Grant

Our understanding of the dimensions of the "environment" and its interactions with the processes of economic development is constantly changing. Throughout history, the human impact on the environment has been relatively slight, but in the past two centuries, and particularly since the industrial revolution, our impact has increased profoundly.

Through an increase in the scope and scale of agricultural and industrial activities, as well as an exponential increase in world population to 5.4 billion today, ecological problems once confined to local and regional levels have, for the first time, assumed planetary dimensions.

Increasingly, accurate scientific monitoring and assessment capabilities confirm that every area of our planet, no matter how remote, is affected by pollution. There are clear warnings that through human activities, our planet is quickly approaching, and in some cases may perhaps have already breached, critical ecological thresholds.

In our collective concern over these trends, environmental issues reached the top of the international agenda during the 1980s, and have become a pivotal element in North-South relations. Citizens and policymakers have generated important environmentally sound and sustainable development policies to bolster environmental protection programmes at the national, regional and global levels.

As a result, both developed and developing countries have strengthened natural resource management and conservation programmes, as well as more stringent application of pollution abatement regulations and cleaner technology requirements.

More difficult, however, is synchronizing environmental strategies with necessary reforms in economic and development strategies. There is little point in working to strengthen environmental protection measures if they are consistently countered by short-sighted policies in other areas.

The list of counterproductive economic policies is long: unrealistically low energy prices, for example, that promote the emissions of greenhouse gases; transportation subsidies that favour continued use of fossil fuels; agricultural policies that call for overproduction and contribute to soil exhaustion and reliance on excessive agro-chemicals; fiscal and tax policies that discourage recycling and encourage the destruction of forests and fisheries; trade protectionism which harms developing countries; and Third World debt which forces countries to squander natural resources to meet pressing debt repayment schedules.

The challenge to resolve these contradictions is enormous. It is also necessary to ensure that the environmental agenda does not hinder developing countries in their efforts to increase their economic growth and development. We can point to the progress being made on the issues of technology transfer and additional financing, both of which are key to equitable environmental action.

International

At the international level, for example, the world community agreed last year to establish a multilateral fund of $240 million under the Montreal Protocol to Protect the Ozone Layer to assist developing countries acquire chemicals and production patents which do not harm the ozone layer.

Also in 1990, the World Bank, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), established the Global Environmental Facility of $1.5 billion to assist developing countries in tackling priority environmental problems.

Continued on page 4

Voices for development

If next year's Earth Summit in Rio is to be successful, it is crucial, as the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) executive director Mostafa K. Tolba points out, that both industrialized and developing countries agree on action to safeguard the environment.

However, given the inequities inherent in the present international economic order, argues Kofi Awoonor, who heads the Group of 77, many developing countries cannot afford to make the environment a top priority.

An opportunity for justice, too

By Kofi Awoonor

The Group of 77 is deeply involved in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development not only because the Earth Summit promises to provide a clear vision of what needs to be done to promote environmental protection and enhancement programmes at the national and international levels, but because this forum is seriously exploring the underlying causes of environmental degradation, particularly in developing countries. It could be an opportunity for all of us, developing and industrialized countries alike, to meet around a common table where our collective destiny as a species on this planet can be discussed as equals.

UN/Milton Grant

The simple fact remains that the alarming environmental deterioration in many developing countries is the direct result of poverty, and the principal cause of this poverty is the global economic imbalance that characterizes North-South relations. It is also clear to us that the developing countries are not poor or underdeveloped because we do not work hard, but because of our historical role in an increasingly exploitative international economic system.

We cannot afford to sustain the current arrangement in which the industrialized countries in effect confiscate our products by paying prices nowhere near parity to the products they sell to us. We are, in the present international economic order, subsidizing standards of living in the North with our underpriced products. What is worse, these standards reflect patterns of overconsumption that no one can seriously argue are sustainable, much less extendable to the rest of the developing world.

The over-exploitation of our resources for export in the desperate scramble to earn foreign currency and maintain debt payment schedules is taking a terrible ecological toll on our forests, our oceans, our lands, and our rivers. Our precious biodiversity is being devastated further each day.

It cannot be expected that, because of the present perverse economic order, those who earn $200 *per capita* in the great democratic, free marketplace are the ones to make sacrifices so that those who, by dint of the massive advantages of technology and an exploitative international economic structure, can breathe cleaner air or escape the torments that global warming may bring in its wake.

Yet the industrialized countries have resolutely opposed reversing this untenable situation. The development assistance they provide us arrives with humiliating conditions and paternalistic lectures regarding the virtues that surround wealth and development. Basic development technology arrives with price tags that not only deepen our poverty but extend our condition of peonage to our so-called benefactors.

Until this situation is redressed by a serious and equitable global economic programme, we must insist on a number of interim measures, some of which can be integrated into the post-Earth Summit mechanisms that are currently being negotiated in the Preparatory Committee process.

Without economic justice, we cannot, and will not, be able to join the industrialized countries in the effort to save our planet.

The developing countries will require compensatory financial outlays from the industrialized countries if we are to implement environmental protection measures. These should not be construed as charity but necessary and just transfers for what is due for years of continuous labour.

Consideration should also be given to the diversion of the peace dividend that will accrue from disarmament towards the cost of development and rehabilitating the environment. This can be done not merely by preserving forests or organizing safer chemical waste disposal, but by guaranteeing investment for development in the poor countries where the environment is the first victim of acute poverty, urban overcrowding and the loss of arable land to overexploitation.

It is unacceptable that the vast savings that result from peace and detente go to support the consumption habits of the rich and further expand the misery of the poor through sheer denial of access. If this happens, we shall be nowhere near the new world order that will guarantee our collective survival.

The rich North, we hope, will weigh our views as legitimate pleas for understanding. And if we are collectively to leave a sound earth to the coming generations, then let us end poverty, let us eradicate communicable diseases, let us guarantee food, shelter and water for all peoples of the planet.

Our will as developing countries to undertake the tasks required to protect and enhance our environment remains strong. But our efforts and concerns for economic development are thwarted at every turn, and undermined by a hostile economic environment.

The global partnership needed so sorely to reverse environmental degradation cannot work if we in the developing world are persistently ignored. Unless these attitudes and tendencies change, we cannot, and we will not, be able to join the industrialized countries in this vital task to make the earth safe for all of us and to save our planet for the future. ■

Kofi Awoonor is president of the Group of 77, representing developing countries in the General Assembly, and is the permanent representative of Ghana to the United Nations.

Investment flows

Continued from page 1

It is unlikely that the declining share of worldwide foreign direct investment flows to developing countries as a group will be reversed in the near future, however, despite efforts by nearly all these countries to open up their economies to foreign direct investment.

Over the past five years, many developing and erstwhile centrally-planned countries have radically reversed policies on foreign direct investment. In the early 1980s commercial bank loans accounted for 80 per cent of all private capital flows to developing countries. Today equity investments account for 80 per cent of all flows.

LDCs in particular are being bypassed by foreign investors.

This shift is symptomatic of the central place that transnational corporations and foreign direct investment have come to occupy in global economic relations. Over the 1980s, transnational companies' investments abroad more than tripled.

At the same time, it is increasingly seen that transnational corporations can be a major factor in a country's economic growth and international competitiveness.

The boom was sparked by competition among companies to strengthen and consolidate international markets abroad, particularly in Europe. During the 1980s, companies found it more profitable to locate production abroad. International production—as distinct from export strategies—is increasingly shaping international economic relations. Due to the strategic needs of transnational companies, a growing proportion of trade, technology transfer and private financial flows is becoming linked to foreign direct investment flows.

Tri-polar investments

The most visible change is the emergence of a tri-polar structure in world foreign direct investment, consisting of the United States, the European Community (EC) and Japan. The "triad" has been the source of four-fifths of all outward investment—stocks and flows—over the last decade. This is substantially higher than these countries' 50 per cent share of world trade. These countries also receive 80 per cent of all global investment.

Japan's emergence as a leading investor has added a third point to the earlier bipolar structure dominated by the United States and a handful of Western European countries. Japanese annual investments abroad grew sixfold over the 1980s. With outflows of $44 billion in 1989, Japan is now a larger outward investor than the United States or the United Kingdom.

Moreover, it is now possible to view the EC as a single investor and recipient region for investments. In preparation for market unification in 1992, European, United States and Japanese companies are restructuring their operations, creating "EC champions" who look to the Community, rather than any individual country, as their home base or market. In a mergers-and-acquisitions boom, cross-border investments within the EC grew by almost 40 per cent a year over the 1980s. In contrast, flows from the EC to the rest of the world grew at only 17 per cent a year.

Besides the triad, a number of newly-industrializing economies, such as Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan, have for the first time emerged as fairly significant outward investors.

The sectoral composition of flows has also changed. In the 1950s, investments concentrated in raw materials, other primary products and resource-based manufacturing. Today it is mainly in services and in technology-intensive manufacturing. The shift toward services is especially marked. Services, such as trading, banking, construction and hotels, now account for about 60 per cent of annual foreign investment flows.

Disadvantages

Of the total world outflows of $196 billion in 1989, developing countries received just $30 billion. They concentrated primarily in 10 newly-industrializing economies, Singapore, Brazil, Mexico, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Egypt, Argentina, Thailand, and Colombia, each situated near one of the three major global investors. They received 75 per cent of all flows to developing countries over the 1980s.

Though average annual flows to the developing countries doubled over the 1980s, their share of total world investment fell from 25 per cent in the early 1980s to 19 per cent in 1989. If developing countries are to share in the new bounty, they should at least receive a growing share of the rapidly expanding global foreign direct investment flows.

The 42 least developed countries are being particularly bypassed by foreign investors. Between them, they received only 0.7 per cent of flows to developing countries over the last decade; or to take one example, only $200 million in 1989.

Technological competition and increasingly sophisticated production technologies are transforming the way transnational companies organize their global division of labour. In choosing where to locate, companies are tending to look for skilled, modern work-forces accustomed to high-tech processes and needing minimal training. Cheap labour costs alone are no longer sufficient incentives.

But here again, poorer countries are at a disadvantage. Major infrastructural and human development programmes are often beyond their means.

In the 1990s, human resource development is likely to be a key competitive strategy for developing countries in attracting foreign investment. Multilateral institutions could provide financial and technical assistance in this area. It has been proposed that they might also help attract investment by facilitating contacts between developing countries and transnational corporations. ■

The World Investment Report 1991: The Triad in Foreign Direct Investment **is the first in an annual series to be produced by the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, New York. This year's report focuses particularly on the role of the United States, the European Community and Japan as the world's largest direct investors and examines the investment relationships between them. It is the first study of its kind.**

The study may be obtained from the Sales Section, United Nations Secretariat, DC2-0853, New York, NY 10017, United States, or Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Price: $25, plus $3.50 for shipping and handling.

Transnationals lead the way

Much as trade fuelled expansion and global integration in the 1950s and the 1960s, foreign investment is poised to do the same in the decades ahead, becoming a central determinant of economic growth and competitiveness. This is largely due to intensifying linkages with international trade, technology and financial flows.

Fifty per cent of international trade is conducted by and through transnational corporations and their affiliates. In recent years, transnational corporations have, through a host of equity and contractual arrangements, eased the way for developing country firms to enter world markets. Japanese, Swedish and United States companies have helped stimulate manufactures exports from Latin America and Asia. Several of the Asian newly industrializing countries have become major exporters by drawing upon the technology, organizational skills and marketing networks of transnational corporations from developed market economies.

Transnational corporations are also the prime generators of new technology, and the leading channel of global technology transfer to developing countries.

Investment clustering

But companies' changing global strategies appear to be creating regional investment blocs, centred around the United States, the European Community and Japan. Firms from these countries are tending to locate investments in the immediate neighbourhood, building production and distribution networks to supply the regional market and to export globally.

From the perspective of developing countries, investment clustering might lead to further marginalization. If regional strategies dominate corporate policy in the 1990s, economic reform and liberalization might be insufficient to attract investors. And where a country is located might prove more important than its comparative advantages.

In 30 developing and Central and Eastern European countries studied, a single triad member accounted for over half of total inward investment stocks and flows in the 1980s. The United States dominates inflows in Mexico, Central and South America, Japan in South-East Asia, and the EC in Central and Eastern Europe. In many cases, investments go to upgrading infrastructure and skills.

The clustering pattern in foreign direct investment is matched by a similar pattern in trade relationships. In almost all instances in which a host country is dominated by one triad investor, the investor is also its major trading partner.

The danger is that the next decade might see the emergence of powerful regional economies in which all but a handful of developing countries must remain outsiders.

New opportunities

With the regionalization of investments, there is a danger that policy regimes governing capital, technology and trade flows will increasingly be determined by bilateral or regional negotiations with one of the triad members. Countries outside these groupings stand to lose their voice in influencing regimes that govern international economic relations.

But in change, there is also opportunity. The rise of a whole host of new investors allows countries to diversify sources of inward investment. In addition, the globalization strategies of transnational corporations imply a continued search for new markets and production locations. Countries should be careful to exploit these. Among the major sources of capital in the 1990s are non-triad developed and newly-industrialized countries, and small and medium-sized companies from developed and developing countries.

Tolba: Development and environment

Continued from page 3

Negotiations towards two new global treaties—one on climate change, the other on biological diversity—are focused on defining the specific arrangements for additional financing and technology transfer.

These issues take on greater urgency as countries prepare to meet next year in Brazil for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. That meeting must represent a real turning point in the environment and development agenda. Success hinges on the agreement for concrete, co-ordinated and costed action that fosters development sustainability.

In the field

At the local level, steps are being taken to ensure that development programmes foster genuine development so that it will build and sustain human opportunities, alleviate poverty, and strengthen social health, literacy and other basic human requirements. After being viewed within the development matrix as a policy appendage, environmental considerations are becoming an integral part of development planning in the field.

In recent years, environmental impact assessment procedures have been strengthened so as to avoid errors in project planning which not only failed to develop but directly caused environmental destruction.

Equally important, a whole range of policy-making tools is being used. That includes scientific assessment procedures to determine the balance between natural resource extraction and replenishment rates, environmental and natural resource accounting, input-output analysis and cost-benefit analysis.

These efforts demand new approaches which balance appropriate technologies with proven, traditional patterns of agriculture and agroforestry. They must also tap into the considerable entrepreneurial skills of people in Africa, the Asia-Pacific and Latin American regions and involve local communities, particularly rural women.

We are not lacking in strategies and new thinking about how sustainable development can proceed. With a clear political commitment of developed and developing countries to work together, we can build a new, global partnership that will prove to be viable over the decades ahead. ■

Mostafa K. Tolba is executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme, headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.

India

Minute rice outpaces drought

By Mahesh Uniyal

New Delhi—Rice farmers in the Kalahandi district of India's eastern Orissa state regularly see their crop destroyed. If it is not a failed monsoon, it is one of those fierce Bay of Bengal cyclones that uproot their crops and unleash floods. A new drought-resistant, fast-growing hybrid rice developed by Indian scientists may improve their harvests dramatically.

The New Delhi-based Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) is testing a new variety of "instant rice" that can be harvested within an incredible 65 days of sowing.

Called *pusa jaldi dhan* ("quick rice" in Hindi), it is not only the world's fastest-growing rice variety, but is also resistant to pests and can withstand long periods of drought.

The more common varieties of rice seedlings need up to 140 days and abundant water to grow, but IARI scientists claim the new strain only needs three days of rain to give a reasonable harvest.

The "green revolution" that boosted rice yields in the 1960s were confined to irrigated areas. Rain-fed lowlands and hill terraces which produce one-fourth of Asia's rice were largely bypassed by the new breeds.

In an effort to improve crops that poorer farmers can afford to produce, research organizations like IARI, with help from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), have turned their attention to breeding these new varieties of rice.

On-farm trials of *pusa* rice in Orissa, central Madhya Pradesh state and parts of the eastern state of West Bengal have reportedly been successful. "The new rice varieties offer tremendous potential for other developing countries prone to crop damage by drought and floods," says S.N. Chakrabarti, who spent 10 years designing and breeding the super-fast rice at IARI.

World Bank

Rice growers throughout India *can expect drought or floods to threaten their vulnerable crops.*

Besides being drought-resistant, Chakrabarti says, his quick rice would also be ideal for flood-prone areas.

Every monsoon, the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers overflow their banks, submerging thousands of acres across northern India. Though the waters recede in September, there is very little time left for the staple rice crop to ripen before the onset of winter. If they planted the new fast-growing rice, farmers could bring in a harvest by November.

Agronomists say the new rice can also be planted with other cash crops. In eastern India, thousands of acres of jute fields lie fallow between September and November. *Pusa* could be profitably grown in the region during those three months.

In north-western Punjab, India's most agriculturally prosperous state, Chakrabarti says, farmers are excited by the performance of *pusa* and want to alternate it with their high-yield rice.

Unlike the "green revolution" rice varieties, the new hybrid does not need large doses of costly chemical fertilizers and pesticides. It produces 0.8 tons of rice per acre, compared to the present 0.13 tons per acre yield in rain-fed farms.

An estimated 70 per cent of India's 420 million acres of paddy fields are rain-fed. But most of the annual rice production of 70 million tons is grown on artifically irrigated fields.

Indian planners warn the country will have to raise rain-fed rice production to be able to feed its population, which is expected to reach one billion by the turn of the century. United Nations estimates show that India needs to increase its rice production to 105 million tons by then.

To meet the challenge, FAO has been providing technical help to the Rice Development Directorate in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad. Indian scientists are visiting rice institutes in the Philippines and China, where scientists are trying to develop a new generation of genetically-engineered "super-rice". ■

IPS

Bringing back the Incan *chocho*

By Diego Cevallos

Ecuadorian technicians are seeking to reintroduce production of *chocho*, a high-protein vegetable which was an important source of food for Indians of the Americas during the pre-Hispanic era.

Last year, technicians began gathering *chocho* plants from several areas of the country, stored them in a plant bank at low temperatures and are now cultivating them in "evaluation gardens" in order to obtain high-quality seeds.

The vegetable, known in Peru and Bolivia as *tarwi*, has a 42 per cent protein content and also contains alkaloids with anti-parasitic properties. It has several qualities which make its reintroduction attractive. It is easy to cultivate as it does not require fertilizers or special care thanks to genetic characteristics which allow it to absorb nitrogen from the air.

It can also be planted at high altitudes from 2,200 and 4,650 metres above sea level, even in areas where there is snow.

To consume *chocho*, the alkaloids must first be eliminated by leaving the legume to soak in water for eight days. According to researchers, the water in which it is soaked is an excellent anti-parasitic for animals and, if mixed with honey, will kill parasites in people.

When mixed with quinine the alkaloid contained in *chocho*, a white substance which grows inside the legume, is an effective remedy against malaria. *Chocho* contains 15 to 20 per cent oil which, if processed, is more healthy than animal or soya oils.

Chocho consumption fell in part because people have developed a dependence on canned foods. "There is a racial problem here too," says José Velasquez, a technician from the National Agricultural Research Institute (INIAP). "People believe that it is food only for Indians."

According to data from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), *chocho* was planted extensively throughout South America during the pre-Hispanic era. Several historians estimate that in the sixteenth century, *chocho* made up 10 per cent of the diet of the population in the Incan empire (which covered Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and northern Chile).

During the experimental stage supervised by INIAP, Velasquez has cultivated over 280 types of *chocho* in order to determine which are the fast-growing species that are also resistant to disease.

No chemicals are used in the experimental plot so that technicians can accurately determine the resistance of the legume to diseases. In the second stage, after the most resistant species are selected, the plants will be cultivated once again and experiments will be made with chemical products to come up with a good quality seed with specific indications for planting, possibly by the end of 1993.

Research on *chocho* is part of a strategy of INIAP's department of phytogenetic resources to rescue several vegetables that were planted and used by the population of this area of the Americas before the Spanish arrival. The idea is to obtain better food for the population by promoting the cultivation of these vegetables with a superior vitamin and protein content. ■

Audrey Gottlieb

After its "rediscovery", *chocho is increasingly found in Ecuadorian markets.*

IPS

Termite-inspired success story

By Cameron Duodu

Several years ago, when Matthew Tetteh set off from Accra on his way to Takoradi in the western region of Ghana, it had been pouring rain for days. Several miles from the capital, he was forced to stop because a bridge had been swept away by a swollen river.

Tetteh, who had received his training as an engineer at the Takoradi Technical Institute, surveyed the scene and marvelled at the force of the water. Presumably engineers had made exact calculations before building the bridge, yet there it lay in ruins.

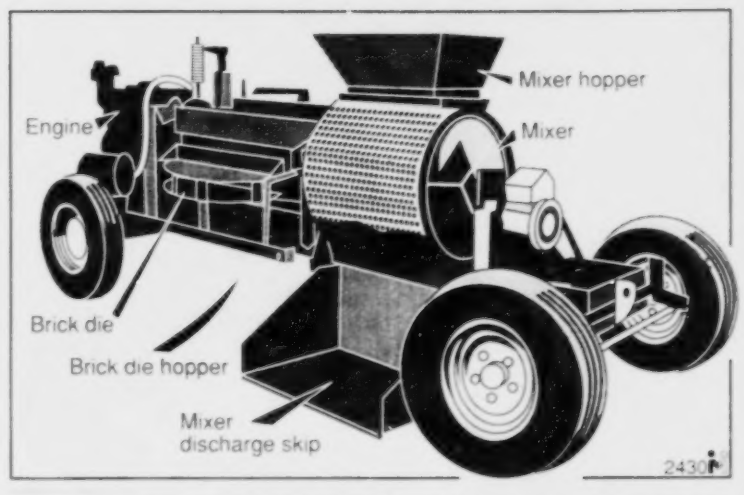
But Tetteh's eye noticed something else. On one river bank stood a termite hill still intact, undamaged by the eddying waters that rushed around it. He realized that the termites that built this mound knew something that human engineers did not.

Since that day Tetteh has dedicated his time trying to put the termites' secret to use in human construction. After visiting the United States to learn soil analysis, he figured out the chemical composition of the substances used by the termites to bind soil in such a way that no flood could dissolve their structures.

He set out to design a machine that could use laterite and chemicals to make construction bricks as durable as the earthen termite mounds. This was an uphill battle.

First, he had to get German engineering companies to take him seriously. The language difficulty apart, who had ever heard of an African machine-designer?

When he had made enough of an impression on some companies to obtain their co-operation in building and testing the machine, he had to engage in a certain amount of subterfuge to prevent them from obtaining enough information about it to appropriate the design as their own.



The self-powered, mobile *Unibrick Clu 2000 machine can produce 500-700 waterproof bricks an hour.*

He did not put much trust in patents, for his intuition warned him that when the patents of an impecunious African are stolen by a big European company that could retain the best legal brains available, he would have a tough time fighting them in the courts.

Eventually he managed to construct a prototype machine—dubbed the "Unibrick Clu 2000". After building a house with bricks made by his machine, he left it to the mercy of the elements to see how it would fare. It did well, despite the cyclical bombardment of rain and sunshine.

Next, he sent samples of his bricks to the Ghanaian government's committee on the use of local building materials. In 1977, on one of the happiest days of his life, Tetteh received a letter from the chairman of the committee informing him that his "stabilized soil brick has a comparatively higher compressive strength, as compared to some of the stabilized land-crete blocks" in use in Ghana.

The committee added, however: "While congratulating you on the successful results of the tests on your Unibrick, we still suggest that we get a Standards Board approval for its use."

Tetteh sent samples to the Ghana Standards Board. Unibrick passed the Board's tests with flying colours. "The results show," the Board concluded, "that the mean stress of the bricks is above average for sun-dried bricks."

That was in 1977. Then came a wait of many years as Tetteh battled to find financing to develop his research and development results. Since then, he has been contacted by several international bodies, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), to address gatherings of scientists on the way his Unibrick could revolutionize housing in poor countries.

The Unibrick machine itself has some significant advantages. It can, for instance, easily be transported to building sites, thus eliminating the waste that occurs when bricks are made on one site and transported to another.

It can also use laterite obtained from the site itself and training in its use takes only a few days. These qualities make it ideal for use in rural communities, where the need for good housing is paramount.

Today, 12 two- and three-bedroom semi-detached houses built by Tetteh at the Dansoman Estate exhibition area, in Accra, have been occupied. More are being built.

The current model of the machine is being produced under licence for Tetteh by a British company, and recently, a quantity of the machines was ordered for use in Zambia after Zambian officials had toured the factory and seen the machine at work.

"Wherever cheap, durable houses are needed, Unibrick will be of service," says Tetteh. Not only in the Third World, though that is where they were originally conceived for, but also in the decaying inner cities of modern metropolitan areas. ■

GEMINI

Cameron Duodu, a Ghanaian who was editor of Drum *in West Africa, is currently reporting and writing plays in London.*

ADVERTISEMENT

Interdisciplinary.
Timely.
Topical.

RESEARCH & EXPLORATION complements single-subject research journals with an emphasis on synthesis and superior presentation. This peer-reviewed quarterly provides the best in geographic scholarship — broadly defined — to scientists, educators, and policymakers worldwide.

In addition to articles presenting fieldwork, methodology, and application, RESEARCH & EXPLORATION'S flexible format includes commentary and rejoinder, opinion essays, and reviews of this year's books. This lively, engaging format is designed to bridge disciplinary boundaries and stimulate genuine communication among scientists. Studies emphasizing patterns of change and movement, biodiversity and quality-of-life issues, whether practical or theoretical in approach, are selected from a variety of disciplines; contributions from corporate and governmental analysts appear alongside reports on university or grant-funded research.

Please send my trial issue of **Research & Exploration** and enroll me as a subscriber. I've checked my preferred method of payment below.

☐ Bill me $40.00 for a one-year subscription (four issues).
☐ Bill my institution $50.00.
☐ Payment enclosed. (Make checks payable to National Geographic Society. Please add 5% sales tax for subscriptions sent to any Maryland address.)

NAME (please print)
INSTITUTION (if applicable)
STREET
CITY STATE / PROVINCE / REGION COUNTRY ZIP / POSTAL CODE

Complete this form and mail to: National Geographic Society, P.O. Box 1111, Washington, D.C. 20013-9990 U.S.A.

Quake-resistant houses pass tremor tests

The only good news resulting from the second earthquake in less than a year in Peru's Alto Mayo region is that all the earthquake-resistant houses erected after the major quake in May 1990 remain standing, despite the devastation and collapse of most other structures.

Some 70 houses were in various stages of construction when the town of Soritor was hit for the second time in April. A larger community building also withstood the impact, which killed 35 people and affected nearly 10,000 homes.

Following last year's earthquake, between spaced horizontal and vertical poles and using only a small amount of earth as an infill. Walls need to be only 10 to 15 centimetres thick. The flexibility of houses allows them to move with the impact of tremors caused by an earthquake and then return to their original position.

Although indigenous to Peru, this system was not previously used in this area. Instead, *tapial* or rammed earth construction was favoured. With solid walls up to one metre thick, there is none of the inherent flexibility needed to withstand tremors.

The reconstruction at Soritor, one of the towns worst hit last year, includes new housing for 200 families. Town committees have decided on the allocations of priority and resources, giving preference to single mothers and the poorest farmers.

Since December, the programme has been supported by Caritas of Peru. An interest-free revolving fund of $120,000 has been established for the purchase of materials unobtainable in the region itself. The long-term aims of the programme include recommendations for reafforestation to provide a local supply of *quincha* building materials. ■

Intermediate Technology News

Peruvian workers prepare *a new house with flexible, quake-proof lattice-work walls.*

Intermediate Technology, a British-based non-governmental organization that develops new appropriate technologies for developing countries, was instrumental in bringing together a number of agencies to work towards the long-term reconstruction of the San Martin department of the high *selva*. In particular, Intermediate Technology's Peru office recommended a building system based on improvements of the traditional *quincha* or lattice-work construction.

Described as "improved *quincha*", the method consists of weaving reeds and small branches into a framework supported

Africa's other famine: A hunger for books

By Kofi Ahinful

Africa, like other Third World regions, is starved for information, especially the kind that comes from books. The development of culture and human resources, the slow steps towards literacy and democracy, all require a free and abundant flow of reading materials. Yet, throughout the continent, there is a paucity of books. While censorship plays a role, illiteracy, lack of foreign exchange, printing technology, paper and an underdeveloped consumer market are pervasive problems. The situation in Ghana is symptomatic.

Beryl Goldberg

Bookshops in Ghana *offer low-quality domestic books or used foreign editions.*

Accra—After years of what has been described as a "book famine", Ghanaian publishers and government officials are aggressively confronting chronic problems plaguing the nation's publishing and bookselling industries.

The scarcity of books is a multifaceted problem. Low literacy rates in this country of 15 million people mean that Ghanaians cannot be avid readers of books and newspapers. Walter Blege of the ministry of education says that this limited market for books is compounded by the shortage of foreign exchange to import necessary inputs, primarily paper.

According to T.B. Asare, branch manager of the State Publishing Corporation, most Ghanaians have such low incomes that they cannot afford to buy books at current prices. "You just can't get good books in the country," observes former education minister Kojo Botsio. "Book prices have soared more than 100 per cent since the 1970s."

Newly schooled citizens are quick to lose their skills if they have nothing to read.

Books are so scarce that street vendors only have used books on sale. For example, a dog-eared copy of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* costs the equivalent of $2, which is considered an exorbitant price for those who used to pay much less for a brand new book years ago.

Because of the small consumer market, the publishing industry depends heavily on government-sponsored schools, colleges and university students to buy books. But even this is no guarantee of commercial success. Frank Simpson, of the Ghana Book Development Council, cites the poor economy as a drag on the few publishing houses that do exist. "Some publishing houses are owed several million cedis (the local currency) by state agencies."

Like other African countries, Ghana is heavily promoting literacy. Yet newly schooled citizens are quick to lose their skills if they have nothing to read. Thus a healthy publishing industry takes on greater importance. Inspired by initiatives of the Ghana Education Service and Ghana Book Development Council in Accra, Daniel A. Lartey, managing director of Citadel Press, sees the solution to the problems of the publishing industry in simultaneously raising literacy rates and boosting book supplies.

Ronald Reimer, managing director of Reimer Bookshop, has joined with other associates in the book trade to plan a way around the shortage in the foreign exchange needed to import books and printing materials. They have taken the lead of publishers in India and agreed to use low-cost newsprint rather than high-quality paper and high-technology production techniques. What is needed, they agree, is "just having the books to read".

Literacy campaign

As for the long-term problem of illiteracy, the government has set a target of 50 per cent literacy by the year 2000. By then, it is hoped that the population will be able to read and write not only through classroom teaching, but through vocational or on-the-job education programmes as well.

The government campaign requires rehiring about 70,000 retired teachers throughout the 10 regions of Ghana. While this is far short of the estimated total number of 200,000 teachers required for a successful campaign, authorities are optimistic that by early 1992, they will have the full complement of teachers for the scheme.

Some observers, such as Carl Reindorf, a public relations professional in Accra, the capital city, are also concerned about the effect of censorship on the publishing industry. Reindorf says that a great disservice is done to the publishing industry by "silencing some writers, as well as presses".

But some Ghanaians argue that times have changed and that with the relative freedom and security under the current government, there will soon be a modest revival, if not a renaissance of Ghanaian writing. The Ghana Association of Writers has taken up this challenge and several of its members are writing books on national subjects, filling the vacuum that has existed for more than 30 years.

The Ghana University Press, which long published material from the university only, has changed its policy, publishing 200 books by Ghanaian writers since 1985. Other publishers, like Afram Publications, Asempanaye Publications and Royal Publishing Company, are calling for manuscripts from Ghanaian writers, says Thomas Nelson of the Booksellers Association.

There is also support on the international scene. In August, many publishers attended the fifth annual Zimbabwe International Book Fair, Africa's premier book fair which featured exhibitions from the 10-nation Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) and many European publishers.

Sources at the Ministry of Education say that one of these publishers, the African Books Collective, a London-based non-profit organization of anglophone African publishers, has plans to start publishing books in Ghana.

The organization will help African publishers overcome foreign exchange constraints and assist Western book distributors and libraries in obtaining African literature. It plans to pass two-thirds of the overseas sales income back to the African publishers.

When feasible, African Books Collective will subsidize book sales in Africa, sources say. The higher profits of African publications in Europe will boost sales and may encourage African writers to use African, rather than foreign, publishers.

The foreign exchange earned from the sales will help African publishers pay for imported printing materials, which are unavailable locally, to stimulate local production. The sources said that two big library groups in the United Kingdom have formally endorsed the project. ■

Kofi Ahinful, a journalist based in Accra, is a correspondent for NewsLink Africa Ltd.

African magazines scarce, too

Despite the emergence of educated and urbane consumers, Africa has yet to develop a network of magazines to cater to the growing demand for news and consumer information. A recent conference held at United Nations Headquarters, "Media Coverage of the African Continent: Focus on Magazines", explored the reasons why Africans remain inhibited in their efforts to publish magazines for local, regional, national and global audiences.

Many of the problems—illiteracy, small local markets, obsolete technology, lack of materials and under-capitalization—are shared with the book publishing industry. But conference participants pointed out that magazines have their own specific problems as well.

With a population of 650 million continent-wide, Africa publishes only 150 standard magazines. By contrast, Brazil, a country of 150 million inhabitants, publishes 1,500 different magazines. The figures are discouraging, especially for the poorest countries. In Burkina Faso, for example, which has a population of 8.5 million and a per capita income of $190 a year, there is only one newspaper with a press run of 6,500 copies and five magazines. In Nigeria, Africa's largest country with 115 million people, there are 22 newspapers and 20 magazines. Even with a pass-along factor of five, it is clear that readership is very small in relation to the overall population.

Those magazines that do get published face stiff competition. The slick international magazines—and there are many African newsmagazines, for example, that are published in Europe with wide circulation on the continent—are so far ahead of what African publishers can produce in terms of quality, design and content that local publications pale in comparison.

Magazine publishing in Africa is primarily in the private sector, mainly because governments have not seen it as a priority. This does reduce available funds for investment, but does not place publications beyond the reach of government censors, who often have life or death power over publications.

Lack of government support affects industry in many ways. For example, the fact that few postal systems are designed to facilitate magazine delivery in rural areas cuts off the majority of potential subscribers. Controls over importation of paper also drastically limit production.

One striking factor stands out in constricting the magazine market. While the pool of skilled editors, writers, photographers and production personnel has steadily grown over the years, a crucial element in the magazine formula, marketing information, is still missing.

Scientific research to determine target audiences, promotional strategies and advertising and circulation potential simply does not exist on most of the continent. In these areas there are few people with marketing expertise and little other market data on which to base research models. Without this fundamental marketing information, the enormous potential that the magazine market has in the region will remain underdeveloped and vulnerable to misallocation of investment funds and talent in projects that will not get off the ground.

Prepared by Amanda B. Peterson, a consultant, who is currently documenting the African magazine industry in co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). For more information, please contact the Regional Commissions New York Office, Tel: (212) 963-5221; Fax: (212) 963-1500.

Aid

Japan debates expansion of foreign assistance

Tokyo—Japan, recently dethroned as the world's largest aid donor, plans to regain the top spot by boosting its official development assistance (ODA), the funds disbursed in its foreign aid programme.

But just how much and how fast ODA should be increased is a hot topic of debate in Tokyo among the four government ministries involved in administering aid.

The Japanese government is also debating whether to overhaul its criteria for dispensing aid in response to criticisms that its ODA is too concentrated in one region, Asia, and should be more ideologically oriented.

According to figures tabulated by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the 24-nation "rich man's club" based in Paris, the United States regained its long-held title as the world's largest aid donor in 1990. Japan had wrested this achievement from the United States in 1989.

OECD figures showed that last year Japan doled out $9.09 billion in foreign aid. The OECD put United States spending at about $10 billion.

As a percentage of gross national product (GNP), Japan's aid ranked twelfth in the world. Its aid ratio remained unchanged at 0.31 per cent, below the average for the 18 member nations of the OECD's development assistance committee, which rose to 0.35 per cent from 0.33 per cent in 1989.

This could change significantly in the coming years if anything comes of current efforts to boost Japan's ODA.

In July, Japanese foreign minister Taro Nakayama suggested in Paris that Japan should increase its ODA to a level equivalent to 1 to 2 per cent of GNP, and impose a new "international contribution tax," or raise the national sales tax, to finance the increase.

In Tokyo, that suggestion went over like a lead balloon. The finance ministry proclaimed it impossible to fund and manage such a huge increase. It noted that boosting the ODA-GNP ratio to even 1 per cent would entail almost a threefold increase over current levels to $29 billion.

A more likely ratio for Japan to achieve in the coming years is the 0.70 per cent target set by the United Nations two decades ago. The foreign ministry has a "pilot plan" to reach that target by 1997, a ministry official said earlier in July.

But to do so, Tokyo would have to raise its ODA budget by at least 20 per cent every year through 1997 to 1998, and the Japanese economy would have to grow by 5.5 per cent yearly, according to foreign ministry estimates.

"If everything goes well, Japan will have provided $30.3 billion in 1997," a top ODA official said.

In dispensing future aid, Japan may follow new policies that Tokyo is considering adopting.

Earlier this year, prime minister Toshiki Kaifu said Japan would begin assessing requests for aid according to four new criteria: military spending, promotion of democracy, efforts to introduce market-oriented economies and respect for human rights.

Until now Japan has dispensed aid on a non-ideological basis, according to two main principles—humanitarian need and the desire to foster economic development. In pursuing the second objective, it has emphasized market stability and return on investment.

In any event, Japan is ill-equipped at present to adopt any policy which requires greater administrative resources. Japan has only 1,500 trained personnel now to administer its aid programme, the same as Britain whose budget is one-fifth the size of Japan's.

What looks certain not to change is the emphasis Japan places on Asia in apportioning its aid. In 1989, about 62.5 per cent of Japan's direct, bilateral aid went to Asian countries. Although it appears that Africa will be the focus of new aid efforts, that region currently ranks a distant second with 15.3 per cent, and Latin America third at 8.3 per cent.

Robin Elsham/IPS

Nicolae Asciu

Market reforms first

Washington—Pleas from Mikhail Gorbachev and other Eastern bloc leaders for Western aid have been met with demands to speed market reforms as a condition for loans by key donors. In an effort to meet these conditions, some multilateral lenders are providing funds targeted at facilitating the difficult transitions to market economies.

In August, the World Bank set up a $30 million fund to finance technical co-operation programmes with the Soviet Union and its republics, and to support the country's economic reform programme.

The fund is intended to provide assistance in the areas of economic stabilization, long-term growth strategies and the development of free market policies.

It will also provide support for the privatization process in the Soviet Union and the incorporation of the private sector into the country's economic activities.

The fund makes provision for co-operation programmes in specific areas such as agriculture, energy and housing, which are also receiving technical support from the United States in accordance with previous agreements.

The World Bank has offered to provide training for Soviet officials in charge of economic planning and the application of reforms at its Economic Development Institute.

The Soviet Union is still awaiting a response to its formal request for membership in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, presented in July.

European Community

Resisting requests for stepped up aid following the aborted coup in August, the European Community (EC) has confined its aid to the USSR to around $1 billion food aid and grants to enable Soviet officials and businessmen to gain "know-how" of the market economy.

"The Treaty of Union is still under discussion and we are not sure which republics will participate," said the president of the EC Council of Ministers, Dutch foreign minister Hans Van Den Broek, in answer to why the Community is reluctant to accord long-term aid pledges at the moment.

The president of the European Commission, Jacques Delors, added that "the almost revolutionary process in the Soviet Union does not change the economic analysis made by the European Commission."

Delors added that there could be "no economic reform without solid institutional reform" in the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, the EC intends to send its commissioner for external trade, Frans Andriessen, to the Soviet Union to discuss with the new Soviet authorities the disbursement of some 400 million European Currency Units ($440 million) of know-how aid to the country.

$400 million appeal for Horn of Africa

On 5 September the United Nations announced a $400 million appeal to fund its newly organized Special Emergency Programme in the Horn of Africa (SEPHA). The inter-agency appeal to address crisis situations in Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti and Kenya is being co-ordinated by James O.C. Jonah, under-secretary-general of the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship, who in May was asked by the United Nations secretary-general to take responsibility for SEPHA.

The effects of civil war, recurring drought and severe social and economic deterioration have been catastrophic for tens of millions of people in the Horn of Africa. In addition to the incalculable cost in terms of human life, unprecedented numbers of people have become either internally displaced or live as refugees in neighbouring countries.

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, some eight million people rely on sustained food aid assistance. Millions more are at risk due to lack of access to essential drugs and basic services. As well as the strain on over-stretched resources caused by large numbers of returnees and refugees from Somalia and Sudan, the aftermath of civil conflict in Ethiopia has resulted in a massive movement of ex-soldiers and their families, some presently in north Sudan as refugees. Many of them lack food, shelter and clothing. A further 357,000 Ethiopians, formerly in refugee camps in Somalia, have returned to Ethiopia since the beginning of the year and are living in precarious conditions in remote parts of the east and southern areas of the country.

Sudan

In Sudan, where a further eight million people require emergency relief assistance, the nation is facing a crisis more severe than ever before in some areas. Prices of basic foodstuffs have increased to levels which are beyond the means of rural and most urban populations. Paradoxically, the rains which have fallen in recent months and have encouraged many families to return to their farms to begin planting crops have served to further threaten the lives of large numbers of people. Additionally, the country was already host to 700,000 refugees—some 370,000 of whom are dependent on international assistance—when an additional influx of 52,000 refugees from Ethiopia arrived in Kassala, northern Sudan, at the end of May 1991. An estimated 260,000 Sudanese people formerly in refugee camps in Ethiopia have also fled from conflict to areas in southern Sudan. Many are living without shelter or access to water and medical attention.

Somalia

In Somalia, the past three years of conflict have resulted in a nation lying in ruins. In addition to the disruption of the all-important livestock industry and agriculture, social services, such as health care and water supply systems, are virtually non-existent. Most of the basic infrastructure of the country, including airports, road transport, communications systems, houses, government ministries and institutions, has been destroyed because of conflict.

When the secretary-general announced the establishment of the SEPHA office in New York in May, he also invited Michael Priestley, senior adviser to the administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and former special representative for Emergency Relief Operations in Ethiopia and Sudan, to assist James Jonah in his efforts to co-ordinate aid from international donors.

MAP NO. 3644 UNITED NATIONS
AUGUST 1991

Robin Jareaux

Labour
What an hour's work can buy

What do a Sri Lankan waiter, a Yugoslav spinner, a Bangladeshi bus conductor, a baker in the Central African Republic and a grocery salesperson in Lesotho have in common? They all had to work for more than three hours to earn enough to buy a kilo of rice.

On a brighter note, one hour's labour purchased at least nine kilos of rice for a journalist in Bahrain, a bricklayer in Hong Kong, a carpenter in Sweden, a grocery shop salesperson in Uruguay and a postman in French Polynesia.

These wide disparities in the purchasing power of wages have been computed from the information for 1989 provided by governments in reply to the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) *October Inquiry* on occupational wages and hours of work and on retail food prices, published recently.* This annual survey collects data on wage rates, earnings and hours of work for 159 occupations in 49 industry groups and on average retail prices for 93 items of food from over 100 countries throughout the world.

Rice, potatoes and bread are traditionally the staple diet for the majority of workers throughout the world, but many had to work long hours to satisfy their family's needs. To buy a kilo of potatoes, many employees in Bangladesh, Bolivia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Sudan had to work for more than an hour.

If bakers in Burundi, Colombia, India, Myanmar and Sri Lanka wanted to buy a loaf of bread (500 g), they also had to sweat beside their ovens for over an hour to earn enough. At the other end of the scale, hotel receptionists in the Netherlands could take home more than 10 loaves after an hour, as could Cuban machine compositors, building electricians in Hong Kong, plumbers in Italy and bus drivers in French Guiana.

There were many cases of highly disparate wage scales. In Bolivia, for instance, a nurse earned nearly three times as much as a grain miller. In Lesotho, a doctor earned eight times more than a postman, and in Bangladesh a hotel receptionist took home three times as much as a spinner.

However, other countries such as Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Myanmar, Norway, Sweden and Tunisia were notable for their lack of such disparities.

International comparisons of wages and prices, the report notes, are somewhat problematic. Occupations may differ between countries; methods of data collection and types of sources may vary; goods priced in different countries are not necessarily of the same quality. Furthermore, some food items may be widely consumed in some countries but not in others, because of varying habits, traditions, or religious or cultural restrictions. Nonetheless, the data collected through the ILO *October Inquiry* do give a valuable perspective on the purchasing power of wages in various parts of the world.

**Bulletin of Labor Statistics - October Inquiry Results, 1988 and 1989*. ILO, Geneva, 1990. ISSN 0007-4950.

Operational activities will be carried out by individual United Nations agencies, including the World Food Programme, United Nations Children's Fund, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Food and Agriculture Organization, World Health Organization, UNDP and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, according to their areas of expertise. Responsibility for co-ordination of efforts at field level remains with the secretary-general's special co-ordinators in Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia and with United Nations resident co-ordinators in Djibouti and Kenya.

Non-aligned
Realigning the non-aligned

By Ruby Ofori

Accra—As it prepared for its annual summit here, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) of 102 developing countries faced something of an identity crisis: the battle of the superpowers has subsided and the question of their non-alignment with either side is no longer a pressing issue.

Facing the new order, NAM is preparing to debate how most effectively to modernize itself and provide Third World countries with a collective voice to avoid economic and political marginalization in the new order.

Besides the economic ills which still plague most of the Third World, especially Africa, NAM must now also address issues of the environment, arms expenditure within the Third World and regional tensions which still undermine political stability.

"In the face of an undemocratic new world order, the South must organize itself better," said Layashi Yaker, a former Algerian foreign minister and member of the South Commission. "NAM must be strengthened, because its values and principles were precisely the sort needed to build a new world order," says Yaker, who was on the preparatory committee for the NAM ministerial summit here from 2-7 September.

One of the main issues to be discussed at the movement's meeting here is the new world order in which the United States has moved centre stage. Some political analysts have described the new order as *lex Americana*, a world in which United States law and ideology dominate.

Since the United States is no longer competing with the Soviet Union for regional hegemony, the United States' new agenda is to secure trade and influence in the Third World, experts argue.

According to Ghana's deputy foreign secretary, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, NAM has a greater role to play in the era of *lex Americana*. "If indeed we are in a period of *lex Americana*, all the more reason to keep the movement, because our position is that it is not feasible or practical or desirable for any country to play policeman to the world," Chambas said in a recent interview.

"It is not a confrontation posture, we are simply saying that we do not think that a world in which everybody has to live with the hegemony of any power, be it European or American or Asian, is a stable international environment," he explained.

But economic hardships are forcing countries to review their alignments and nine African countries, including Nigeria, have made rapprochements with Israel. According to analysis here, the international economic order will inevitably cause new world alignments and the United States will continue to be viewed as the "engine" of world economic growth.

ADVERTISEMENT

IMPROVE

FOUR PROJECT IMPROVEMENT SOFTWARE PACKAGES

These packages are for planners, managers, implementation teams, evaluators and researchers in public, private and multilateral development agencies.

PC/LogFRAME
FOR PROJECT DESIGN
SPECIAL U.N. AND FRENCH VERSIONS AVAILABLE

PC/LogFRAME is the automated version of the Logical Framework project design and management tool used by many NGOs, bilateral donors and UNDP. It is used for developing and summarizing an overall project design and assessing how external factors impact project performance. Using PC/LogFRAME requires planners to define project objectives, performance targets, project assumptions, resources and activities.

Features: LogFRAME Overview; How to do a LogFRAME Step-by-Step; Project Design Checklist; Sample Project Designs; Next Steps; Readings & Resources and Context Specific Help. Price: **$249.00.** Trainer's Kit with complete set of session guides, exercises, handouts and over 70 transparencies: **$349.00**

PC/LogFRAME R&D
FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT DESIGN

PC/LogFRAME R&D is tailored to the specific requirements of research and development project design and management.

PC/LogFRAME R&D includes all of the features of PC/LogFRAME plus these enhanced features: R&D Project Types & Definitions; 9 On-line Sample Projects in health, agriculture, environment and institution building; 3 levels of Context and Sector Specific Help; LogFRAME Definitions; Interactive Project Design Checklists; First and Next Steps to Improve Projects; Sustainability and Project Design; Project Evaluation; Expanded Readings and Resources. Developed with USAID. Price: **$289.00**

PC/TeamUP
FOR ORGANIZING TEAM PLANNING MEETING AND ESTABLISHING AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

PC/TeamUP is used for team building and establishing detailed implementation plans. It can be used at any time in the project cycle, but is best used at project launch. It integrates use of these well established management tools: Hierarchy of Objectives Analysis; Logical Framework; Annual Performance Plan; Stakeholder Analysis; Work Breakdown Structure; Responsibility Charts; Bar Charts and Performance Budgets. Developed with the Economic Institute of the World Bank. Price: **$289.00**. Complete Trainer's Kit: **$149.00**

PC/PIP
FOR PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

PC/PIP is a team-based tool for diagnosing & remedying lagging performance during implementation. It forces managers to: Define Objectives and Performance Measures; Define Negative and Positive Forces Affecting Performance; Develop Remedial Strategies; Formulate Action Plans. Developed with the Economic Institute of the World Bank. Price: **$289.00.** PIP Trainer's Guide: **$145.00**

TEAMtechnologies inc
3810 Concorde Parkway, Suite 1600
Chantilly, Virginia 22021 USA
(1) (703) 222-5555 fax (1) (703) 222-5662

Economic Development Institute of The World Bank

System Requirements

PC/LogFRAME runs on IBM compatible, PC, XT, AT or greater with single floppy drive or hard disk, and DOS 3.2 or greater. All other packages require IBM compatible AT, 386 or greater with hard disk and DOS 3.2 or greater.

Environment

Critique of debt-for-nature swaps

Now into their fifth year, debt-for-nature swaps have become enough of an institution to determine their longer-term benefits and problems. The controversial finance

Countries may end up paying more in the swap than what the debt paper is worth.

mechanism, created in 1987, permits conservationists to buy commercial bank debts of developing countries at substantial discounts and cancel that debt in exchange for government commitment to local funding for conservation in vulnerable areas.

A recent study, *Sustainable Development: Changing Production Patterns, Social Equity and the Environment*, prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), attempts to evaluate the swaps more critically and to point out their potential disadvantages for debtor countries.

By the end of 1990, nine debt-for-nature pilot programmes had been carried out in four Latin American countries, with a face value of debt redeemed of $90.5 million. To date, most studies on these debt-for-nature swaps have concluded that they benefit all parties concerned.

They contend that commercial banks succeed in divesting themselves of a problematic component of their loan portfolios by selling the debt in the secondary market. The conservation group multiplies the impact of its expenditure because the dollar equivalent of the local currency instruments they receive in exchange for the debt paper is greater than the amount they initially invested to repurchase the debt in the secondary market; and for debtor countries, the swap serves the dual purpose of reducing their external debt—principal and annual interest payments—and buttressing their policies for the protection of the nation's environmental heritage.

In its review of the costs involved in debt-for-nature swaps, however, the ECLAC report finds that various economic analyses have shown that partial, fragmented debt redemption operations are not necessarily a good deal for a sovereign government. The country may end up paying more in the swap than what the debt paper is worth since the bid price is determined by the market and the market reflects the average value of the total stock of debt, including both its payable and unpayable portions. Thus, the debt paper which is redeemed would have a lower value at the margin than the price paid for it in a buy-back operation on the secondary market.

Considered from another angle, the operation is equivalent to granting a subsidy to the banks benefitting from the repurchase transaction. There is also another subsidy, which arises from the fact that the conditions under which a swap is conducted are usually such that the amount of local currency paid out by the debtor country is a multiple of the price paid for the debt on the secondary market.

Secondly, debt swaps lead to an expansion of the money supply which may have inflationary effects. There are, however, ways of minimizing the impact of swaps on domestic price levels. For example, many countries have chosen to exchange medium-term bonds for such debts. These bonds spread out the money issue over time and indirectly reduce the subsidy received by the conservation groups taking part in such swaps.

Finally, the conversion of external obligations into local currency increases the amount of fiscal expenditure during a time of structural adjustment and severe fiscal constraints, which may well be to a country's disadvantage. Cases of such situations have occurred in countries that are not servicing their external debt punctually.

The conversion of debt into environmental protection programmes has both benefits and costs for the treasury of the debtor country, but the costs will be magnified if the country is in the midst of a structural adjustment and suffers from a shortage of fiscal resources. "Hence, each transaction should be carefully evaluated in terms of its impact on the population and in the light of possible alternative uses of these scarce resources," the study concludes.

The report is available through the Information Service of ECLAC, Casilla 179-D, Santiago, Chile. For a discussion of the pros and cons of debt-for-nature swaps, also see the July-August 1989 issue of *Development Forum*, pp. 12-13.

16 October

World Food Day: Trees for life

"My dream is to see this forest conserved because we know it can guarantee the future of all the people who live in it."

Chico Mendes,
Former leader of
Amazonian rubber workers

Millions of people around the world depend on trees to help meet their basic needs for food and shelter. Yet, the social and economic values of trees are often overlooked—in development planning, in land management and in international co-operation. In selecting *Trees for life* as the theme for World Food Day 16 October 1991, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) emphasizes the importance of trees to the well-being of all peoples of our planet.

Trees, shrubs and other forest flora offer a key to sustainable agriculture and economic growth in a world confronted by the urgent demands of a burgeoning population. Vital biological diversity and genetic resources lie sequestered in them.

Trees are essential elements in the ecosystems most critical for humanity: those that support food production. Through trees we can work to reverse declining soil fertility and to improve agricultural productivity, bringing new prosperity and a better quality of life to underprivileged rural populations. We can rehabilitate degraded watersheds and extend the range of productive habitats in a world hungry for land.

Forestry cannot replace agriculture in the task of producing food for millions, nor can it heal the inequities faced by so many of the rural poor. The forests and trees can, however, play an important part in helping to achieve food security.

Today, it is increasingly recognized that the work of the world's foresters has the potential to increase food production, to ensure the sustainability of food supplies and to improve access to food for the landless and farmers in the poorest rural areas. More and more, foresters will need to work alongside small farmers, nutritionists and social scientists.

For further information on World Food Day and on what you can do on this occasion, please contact the organizers of World Food Day or the FAO office in your country, or write to: World Food Day Secretariat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy. Tel: (39-6) 57974189 or (39-6) 57975160; Cables: FOODAGRIROME; Telex: 610181 FAO I; Fax: (39-6) 5782610 or (39-6) 57975155.

Child rights: A commemoration

With unprecedented speed, the Convention on the Rights of the Child is

being accepted by the nations of the world as their legal framework for the treatment of children. Less than two years after the convention was unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, a majority of national governments have either made the provisions of the convention binding law or are in the process of doing so.

The United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) has issued a series

of stamps commemorating the rights of the child. The occasion coincided with the celebration of the Day of the African Child on 16 June.

A booklet, produced by UNPA, in co-operation with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), provides a brief history of events and documents leading to the adoption of the child rights convention. Also outlined are targets for the year 2000 and the outlook for the future.

The six stamps in the series were designed by children, a first for the United Nations. The works were selected from competitions conducted in the

United Nations international schools in New York, Geneva and Vienna. All six have colourful designs that appeal to both children and adults.

For more information on the stamps, write to the United Nations Postal Administration, DC2-0620, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, United States, or Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

For details of the convention, write to the Centre for Human Rights, United Nations Office at Geneva, 8-14, avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

Another mission for James Bond

Roger Moore, the British actor best known for his portrayals of James Bond, is the latest celebrity to be chosen by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as its special representative for the film arts.

For a nominal salary of one dollar, Moore has agreed to redouble efforts to help the world's children.

In his new role, Moore expects to convince various film and distribution companies to give UNICEF time at the beginning of video cassettes to allow a 30- or 60-second message to get across. He said he has already had some response.

Unicef Ruby Mera

Asked about the duration of his contract, Moore said he trusted it would be ongoing, adding that he guessed the current contract "is one year and 22 days and three hours and 45 seconds, and then I get my dollar, which is the first honest money I ever earned in my life."

Moore joins celebrities such as Sir Peter Ustinov, Audrey Hepburn, Harry Belafonte and Liv Ullmann, who are UNICEF goodwill ambassadors.

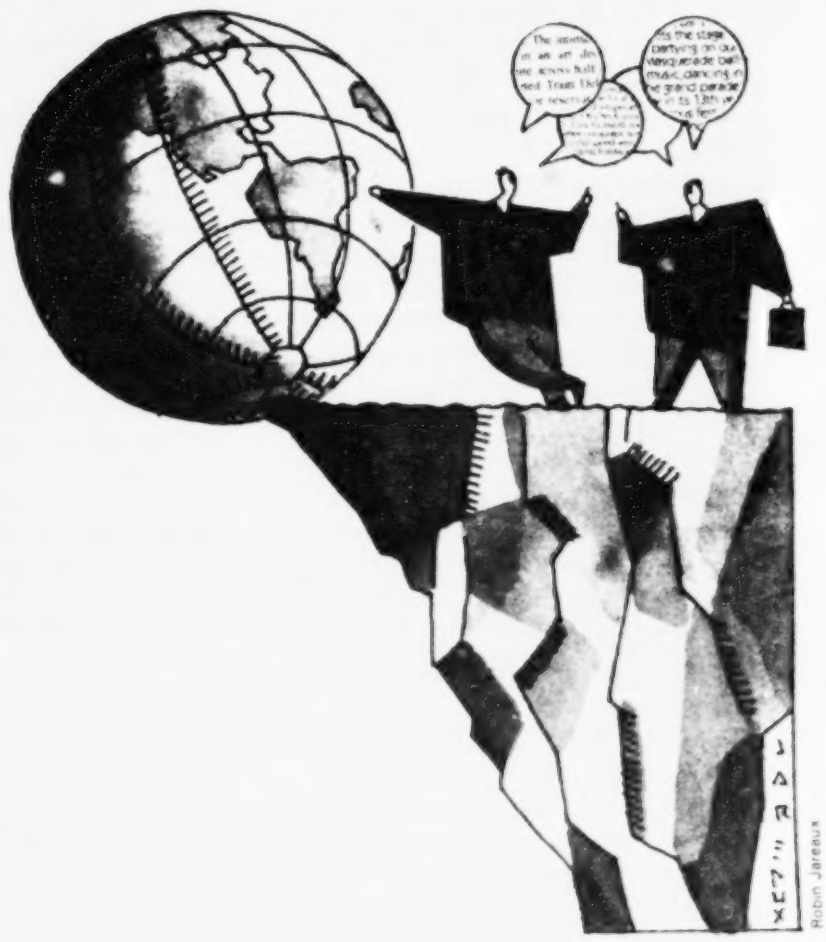
PrepCom III

Earth Charter and Agenda 21 emerge

By Michael McCoy

Geneva—Deepening North-South divisions in determining the substance of the agenda for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) may prove to be the undoing of a successful conclusion of the conference. While some progress had been made on both the Earth Charter and Agenda 21 (*see box*) by the end of PrepCom III in Geneva on 4 September, it was clear that there would have to be more time found somewhere for substantive negotiations than delegations had originally bargained for. The divisions are often couched in debates over apparently insignificant terminology, but these often represent fundamental differences that could make or break the Earth Summit.

If the Earth Summit is to achieve the expectations of the General Assembly, the contentious issues implicit in the North-South economic debate will have to be addressed at some point by the governments planning the event.



Earth Charter

In Working Group III where the Earth Charter was discussed, three governments have made significant contributions in preparation for the Earth Charter negotiations. Working drafts were distributed before the PrepCom by Peru and Canada. The Canadian government in fact took its task seriously enough to send its highest-ranking legal expert, Serge April, director-general of the legal bureau of the government of Canada, to join the Canadian team in Working Group III.

The third country, the Soviet Union, made significant drafting contributions in the first week's negotiations. Later drafts included the long awaited specific recommendations of the Group of 77, which insisted on emphasizing a substantive Southern perspective for the Charter. The final working draft now includes a total of 17 principles that break down into the UNCED agenda items such as forests, poverty, trade, etc.

Originally sceptical of the concept of an "Earth Charter" for the Rio Conference, several governments now recognize the value of a set of negotiated principles that would be the base of an Earth Charter and eventually become the basis for national and international law.

The decision to make the Earth Charter an UNCED goal was itself the subject of intense debate.

At the PrepCom, the United States repeatedly emphasized that the Charter should note the need for market mechanisms to attain sustainable development. China stressed that the Earth Charter should have a strong moral content and should foster a common understanding among the international community on environment and development. Singapore highlighted the interrelationship of poverty and environmental degradation. Nigeria, speaking on behalf of the Sudano-Sahelian countries, brought up the need for fair and equitable income distribution.

Brazil stated that the use of such language as "global commons" in the debate on the Earth Charter tends to compromise the primacy of national sovereignty over resources.

The government of Malaysia suggested that the term "Earth Charter" was an environment-bound term and does not reflect UNCED's central development component. Instead it recommended that it be called the "Rio de Janeiro Declaration on Environment and Development", a change that is likely to stick. Even though this new term does not have the public relations impact the UNCED secretariat intended with "Earth Charter", it is more descriptive and certainly less grandiose.

Agenda 21

Agenda 21, designed to be the specific plan of action to implement the results of the UNCED exercise into the next century, may also be used as a means for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of UNCED decisions as well.

At the request of governments at the second PrepCom, the secretariat prepared "Options for Agenda 21" documents for each of the subject areas on the UNCED agenda (i.e., forests, biotechnology, oceans and many of the cross-cutting issues including poverty, trade, etc.), and have been under consideration at this PrepCom by Working Groups I and II, and in plenary.

A certain tension became evident between the UNCED secretariat and government delegations over the review and preparation of the drafts of Agenda 21 documents. Delegates, from both the North and the South, have expressed a concern that the secretariat is playing too large a role in the drafting and redrafting process of these documents. Rather than delegations only commenting on UNCED secretariat drafts, the delegates wanted to get down to the business of negotiating and redrafting Agenda 21 documents themselves, within their own structure of Working Group informal consultations.

They began this process in PrepCom III, but were unable to complete a review of all Agenda 21 documents in Geneva. Much of that work will necessarily carry over into the fourth PrepCom, to be held in March in New York.

A new condition by the G-77 that is sure to become a point of contention would require "means and measures" for each agenda item addressed under Agenda 21. This requirement would actually hold the international community accountable to clearly state how and with what resources it intends to implement all the recommendations under the wide umbrella of Agenda 21.

The North-South Divide

Southern governments still feel that the development side of this environment and development conference is not getting the same kind of serious consideration that the environment agenda has gotten at each of the PrepCom sessions and that powerful Northern governments want to keep it that way. The level of frustration has been high enough that at one point, early in PrepCom III, the government of Malaysia was considering withdrawing from the conference process altogether.

If the Earth Summit is to achieve the original expectations set forward by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989, the contentious issues implicit in the North-South economic debate will have to be directly addressed by the governments planning the event at some point. There are many questions. Will Northern deserts and forests come under the same scrutiny by the international community as proposed for deserts and forests in the South? What kind of new and additional sources of financial resources will be provided by Northern countries to assure sustainable development measures? Will the present terms of trade between the North and South change in favour of raw commodity producers? Will the South get a fair price for their commodities or access to Northern markets for their manufactures? Will the contributions from and capacity for securing sustainable development that women can provide be taken seriously by governments, North and South?

Two opportunities remain to engage in that debate: the next session of the General Assembly in New York (beginning 17 September) and the fourth PrepCom of UNCED. Debate cannot be put off much longer without compromising the successful outcome of the Earth Summit. ■

Michael McCoy is director of the United States-based Center for Citizen Advocacy, and is Development Forum*'s special correspondent for the Earth Summit.*

How the Earth Summit works

Once the member governments of the United Nations provide the guidelines and "terms of reference" for a United Nations conference like UNCED, a schedule of meetings for a Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) is set to work out the agenda, draft documents and to negotiate decisions and resolutions for a conference document that will be put forward, in this case at the Earth Summit in Rio.

The third session of the UNCED Preparatory Committee, made up of government delegates, just concluded its work in Geneva, on 4 September. The fourth, and probably the final, session of the PrepCom will take place in New York from 9 March-3 April 1992.

All governments are welcome to attend these sessions, as well as representatives of United Nations agencies and offices. Non-governmental organizations attend as observers and occasionally are also members of government delegations.

The work on the agenda of each session of the UNCED PrepCom has been divided into four venues: Working Group I, Working Group II, Working Group III and plenary. Only two working groups can meet at any one time and there are usually no formal working group meetings during the plenary session, which takes place in the final weeks of the four-week PrepCom session.

Glossary

Working Group I Negotiates language for decisions and resolutions on subjects including atmosphere, biodiversity, biotechnology and forestry.

Working Group II Deals with subjects of oceans, toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes.

Working Group III Deals with legal and institutional implementation of UNCED plan of action.

Plenary Where all PrepCom participants deal with cross-cutting issues such as trade, poverty, health and education.

The Earth Charter or, as it is formally named, the Rio de Janeiro Declaration on Environment and Development, is designed to be a commonly agreed set of principles that all governments would approve (non-legally binding) related to the issues of environment and development. These principles would then become the basis for Agenda 21 and eventually a part of accepted international law. This document is under discussion by Working Group III in sessions of the UNCED PrepCom.

Agenda 21 is the plan of action to be adopted by the conference and will be based primarily on the principles of sustainable development incorporated in the Earth Charter. Agenda 21 "action drafts" have been developed for each issue (i.e. forests, oceans, trade, poverty, etc.), and are therefore under discussion in all three working groups and commented on in plenary.

Running for cover

By Christian Clark

Richard B. Mock

This is undoubtedly the century of the urban revolution—and the undoing of much of rural life around the world. In both the North and the South, we face the dilemma of housing an estimated one billion people who currently are without shelter or live under unacceptable housing conditions.

According to Arcot Ramachandran, the executive director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the problem of shelter must be seen as an environmental problem requiring a vast infrastructure to provide sanitation, clean water, safe transport and healthy food as well as good housing. From this perspective, providing shelter has to be seen within the context of sustainable development.

The scale of the task is enormous. According to the World Commission on Environment and Development, the Third World will have to increase by 65 per cent, by the end of the century, its capacity to produce and manage its urban infrastructure, services and shelter merely to maintain present conditions. Researchers estimate that 40 to 50 million additional shelter units need to be constructed annually in order to meet housing needs in developing countries alone. It is a daunting starting point.

The housing crisis is now ubiquitous, whether in the United Kingdom, where over 400,000 people are officially classified as homeless, many living in makeshift "cardboard cities", or in urban India, whose "pavement proletariat", according to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), includes a high proportion of wage earners who cannot pool an income sufficient to meet astronomical housing costs.

In most Third World cities, the World Commission on Environment and Development observes, the enormous pressure for shelter and services has already frayed the urban fabric and has had serious environmental impact, often adversely affecting the health of all.

In rural areas as well, there is need to improve the quality of life and shelter, if there is to be any hope in trying to stem the mass influx of rural to urban migration. In Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, for example, there are over 30 million landless rural families for whom there is little work most of the time. Given the environmental degradation and sinking living standards in many rural areas, experts agree that it is no surprise that they head for the cities in search of a better life.

These factors help to explain why, by the year 2000, more than half the world's population will be urbanized.

Rethinking policies

As a result, policy makers and officials in the international community, academics, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and people at the grassroots level have begun rethinking policies and theories of shelter. Some have begun thinking of the word housing as, to quote John Turner, a renowned housing advocate working in the United States, a verb rather than a noun. Simply stated, the issue of housing must be seen as a dynamic one in which all the major players must take part.

John Flanders, of Toronto's Homeless First, an NGO concerned with housing rights in Canada, believes that the idea of empowerment of the community sector has profound implications for both housing and development. His group managed to persuade the Toronto city government to give an abandoned post office building to a group of homeless who then converted it into a self-run and self-managed co-operative for 72 homeless men and women. The goal went beyond housing: all 72 were later able to secure employment or start a business as a spin-off of the project. This is a cycle that Flanders refers to as shelter-house-work. He argues that if people are given access to the first, often the other two steps can soon follow.

In Bombay, India, a group called the Society for Promotion of Area Resource Centres has pioneered an innovative attempt to empower women, not only to negotiate their own alternatives to pavement dwelling, but to design their own houses and plan an entire settlement. Their ultimate aim is to put the question of their shelter under "people's control", while building new patterns of collective leadership.

Groups such as these are not working in the same sort of isolation they had faced in the past. Flanders, for example, says Homeless First has been influenced by one of the most ambitious schemes ever enacted by the international community—the proclamation by the United Nations General Assembly in 1988 of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, which called for the establishment of shelter for all by the end of the century.

Governments often misdirect their efforts to providing housing rather than performing a more managerial function that would enable others to do this more effectively.

At the time, the strategy, not surprisingly, provoked scepticism from many corners. Even Habitat, the monitoring and co-ordinating agency for the plan, recognized that the goal of providing shelter for all in a span of 12 years under existing conditions was unrealistic. In an effort to speed the process of structural and institutional changes the plan required, Habitat began emphasizing the activist role that the major players would have to take in establishing new human settlements.

Enabling approach

A key element of the Global Strategy for Shelter is the conviction that central governments often have misdirected their efforts into the provision of shelter and infrastructure rather than performing a more managerial function that would enable others—local governments in partnership with the private sector, formal and informal, community groups and individual families—to perform those tasks more effectively and efficiently.

This "enabling approach" would allow governments to provide a facilitating legal, institutional and regulatory environment to encourage people to build and improve their own homes rather than directly becoming providers of shelter. Its effectiveness would reflect an increasing decentralization of authority towards those who are actually in need of shelter.

This would in turn allow the vast human resources of the so-called "informal sector" of the economy to be more fully utilized. Informal shelters which currently fall outside existing laws and regulations need to be recognized and gradually legitimized. Slum-dwellers, for example, would be encouraged to upgrade the infrastructure of their settlements rather than face bulldozers and relocation. The end result would be healthier settlements, which would also generate urban employment and promote social as well as economic development.

Partnerships

According to Habitat, governments' success in upgrading health and other conditions in cities will largely depend on the extent to which they co-operate with the local community sectors—transforming what is often an atmosphere of indifference or repression into one of partnership.

In the Indian city of Hyderabad, the Urban Community Development Department, set up in the early 1980s by the municipal corporation, works directly with community groups and NGOs in poorer neighbourhoods. Within a short time, over 200 organizations had been formed by residents in low-income areas, including youth organizations and women's groups. This network allowed the government to become a partner and sponsor of the very people who are the main builders of the cities.

This shifting of national shelter efforts from the public sector to a national shelter drive, supported primarily through the private sector (including communities, householders, NGOs and so forth), also reflects the new economic and political realities of the late 1980s. Many developing countries are faced with crushing external debts and are simply unable to allocate more money for housing and shelter. Conversely, many donor countries, even if able, are unwilling to increase public sector financing.

If housing policies over the past two decades have foundered, it has not been because of lack of them. These have ranged from upgrading slum areas or providing core houses in site-and-service schemes, to delivering houses as products in total packages, often with housing standards inherited from colonial regimes or imported from developed countries at prohibitively expensive prices. Other governments have tried outlawing unauthorized movements of rural people to larger cities to stem the process of urbanization.

As Habitat's Ramachandran says, it is self-evident that no society can consider itself developed until all its members are properly fed, housed and clothed. Innovative approaches are needed if countries are not to be swamped by unmet shelter needs—a situation which could lead to political and social instability, deterioration of health and productivity levels and environmental degradation.

Many in the housing field are hoping the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, as well as the current rethinking of the pivotal role played by human settlements in the new environment-development matrix, may indeed spell such a new beginning. ■

Christian Clark, a freelance writer and cartoonist, is a two-time Emmy award winning writer for Sesame Street.

Women, shelter and the environment

By Filomina Chioma Steady

With the Earth Summit only eight months away, Habitat is marking World Habitat Day, 7 October, with the theme "Shelter and the living environment". Filomina Chioma Steady, who is a special adviser on women in environment and development for the Earth Summit secretariat, points out the logic of the links between shelter, women and the environment.

Three long-neglected elements in the development puzzle—women, shelter and the environment—are finally being drawn together, and policy makers are finding the linkages very helpful.

They are increasingly aware that the crisis in human settlements and the environment, which affects almost all regions of the world, is due in large measure to the discrepancy between women's *de facto* responsibility for the maintenance of the home and their lack of access to land, financial resources, steady employment and creditworthiness, which are necessary to secure adequate housing.

Traditionally, women have largely been excluded from policy formulation relating to human settlements. Gender-based institutionalized discrimination prevents many women in both the North and the South from access to housing, mortgages and land ownership. This despite the fact that as many as 30 per cent of the world's households are headed by women, according to the *World's Women 1970-1990*, a recent United Nations publication.

Households closely reflect the conditions of the surrounding physical environment, and it is women who bear the main responsibility for protecting members of their households, especially the young, aged and infirm, from pollution, poor sanitation, natural disasters as well as poor housing conditions. They also face the greatest risk of disease from handling contaminated products and clothing within the household.

Furthermore, the majority of people seeking refuge from environmentally degraded homelands are often women and their children, as recent experiences in Bangladesh, the Gulf region and the Philippines have shown.

Although living conditions in squatter settlements created by the explosive rural-to-urban migration are deplorable for everyone, women face a heavier burden of maintaining deteriorating homesteads and protecting themselves and their children from police harassment and arbitrary squatter clearance measures.

Human settlements are clearly vulnerable, environmentally, to pollution of air and water resources including marine resources. Excessive growth of urban areas and the construction of large factories often lead to dangerous soil erosion, large-scale emissions of carbon dioxide and deterioration of housing conditions. In some cities, contamination of settlements by pollution from traffic, industries and hazardous materials provoke chronic cases of genetic defects, still births, spontaneous abortions, cancers and asthma in children.

Women as managers

While we have come to appreciate the important role of women in the management of natural resources, we are slow to appreciate women's role in managing man-made resources such as human settlements and in dealing with the difficulties they experience in so doing. In view of the environmental implications for human settlements and women, policies aimed at improving housing need to be integrated with efforts to improve the management of resources.

The experience of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) has shown that women's groups play an increasingly important role in community schemes related to settlements.

Traditionally, women have been excluded from policy formulation relating to human settlements.

They can provide much-needed nutrition through community gardens and reforestation programmes. They are key to implementation of improved cooking stove technologies and maintenance of community water pumps, road repair and provision of social services such as community clinics, day care centres, social centres and activities related to maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

But improvement in the environment and human settlements for women is ultimately linked to improving women's overall status and their participation in socio-economic development including paid employment, education, access to health services and child care facilities and management and decision-making roles in relation to the human settlement sector.

Reduction of the workload of women could result from better housing, easier access and better use of new and renewable sources of energy, access to clean water, and better sanitation. The end result will likely be an improvement of women's prospects for education, literacy, employment, leisure activities and a general improvement of the quality of their lives, their personal happiness and their status. ■

Africa's recovery in trouble

Continued from page 1

attention to economic reforms as a basis for broad-based, sustained economic development. These reforms focused on the rehabilitation and development of agriculture; the development of other sectors supportive of agriculture; measures to combat drought and desertification; and the efficient development and utilization of human resources.

The framework for reforms in most countries in the 1986-1990 period was provided by structural adjustment programmes (SAPs), inspired by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, since vitally needed external financing became increasingly difficult to obtain without their adoption. Initially these SAPs, as well as their supportive funding arrangements, focused on short-term objectives of stabilization rather than on the broader, long-term development objectives of UNPAAERD. It is now widely acknowledged that these programmes must give more emphasis to the longer-term structural transformation needed in Africa.

Commodity revenues plummet

In the case of domestic resources, Africa's efforts fell short of projections because the continent's main source of external resources and hence investment—earnings from commodity exports—plummeted in the face of weak prices on the world markets. In 1986 alone, Africa lost $19 billion as a direct result of falling commodity prices, with more than $50 billion of export earnings lost during the entire UNPAAERD period.

Indeed, net resource flows to Africa, in real terms, actually declined from $24.6 billion in 1986 to $23.3 billion in 1990. Official development assistance (ODA) stagnated, in real terms, to around $16 billion annually during 1986-1989, while private flows fell sharply.

Net resource flows to Africa, in real terms, actually declined from $24.6 billion in 1986 to $23.3 billion in 1990.

Proposals for a new compact for Africa

Reminding the General Assembly that it must design a new compact for international support of Africa's recovery, the secretary-general recommends that African countries continue their adjustment efforts within a long-term framework of achieving a structural transformation, development and modernization of their economies by focusing on the following priority areas in the 1990s:

- greatly increased investment in human development;
- policies at all levels which integrate environment, population and food production;
- enhanced efforts at regional integration and co-operation and better governance.

Enhanced financial flows—To achieve a 6 per cent annual growth rate, Africa requires, in 1992, a minimum of $30 billion in net official development assistance (ODA), plus further significant reductions in external debt service. Net ODA should increase on a cumulative basis at 4 per cent per annum, up to the year 2000.

Debt—Even more important than aid flows, it is simply not possible for African countries to develop with an existing debt burden of over $270 billion. The servicing of that debt alone currently consumes over 30 per cent of total exports, with the average loss nearing $21 billion per annum. It is therefore proposed that:

- official bilateral debt and semi-official/export credit debts owed by African countries should be cancelled.
- private/commercial debt, which is already highly discounted on financial markets, should be written down and the remaining debt reduced through donor-supported initiatives.
- debt owed to multilateral financing institutions, which now accounts for almost 40 per cent of sub-Saharan Africa's debt-servicing obligations, should be substantially reduced with the assistance of donor countries.

An improvement in commodity prices would immediately enhance resource availability to African countries. Foreign aid during the last five years was hardly sufficient to cover losses incurred as a result of falling commodity prices.

Many important lessons have been gained from the experience of the past five years. From the fundamental starting point that people are both the means, and the end, of the development process—which makes human development a priority—elements of an agreement are taking shape that would include: the need to increase agricultural productivity and food security; an enabling environment—political and legal—to foster initiative and enterprise; an expansion of productive employment opportunities; empowerment of people, good governance and accountability as well as action on regional economic integration.

The average rate of growth of the gross domestic product (GDP) for the region improved somewhat during the UNPAAERD period, but still averaged only 2.3 per cent per annum. The result was that GDP per capita fell by an average of .7 per cent per year and was lower at the end of UNPAAERD than at the beginning.

While the experience of individual countries varied, conditions in Africa during the second half of the 1980s generally reflected a regression in the living standards of the people, as reflected by the continuing decline in GDP per capita over the period under review.

Social conditions worsen

Social conditions worsened considerably, with deterioration in the areas of education, health, nutrition, employment and incomes, with especially serious effects on children, youth and women. Expenditure cuts contributed to the decline in health, education and other social services and to making access to these services more difficult for the poor.

Weaknesses in domestic policy and attempts to correct them through devaluations, and a squeeze on wages, caused sharp falls in real incomes. This, in turn, led to a breakdown in labour specialization and an "informalization" of the economies, with serious consequences for productivity, motivation and accountability. The exodus of highly trained workers had a demoralizing effect in various countries, while available talent was often poorly utilized.

Consequently, there was scarcely any change for the better in the structure of the African economies during the UNPAAERD period. The lack of dynamism in those economies and their susceptibility to internal and external shocks persisted. The recurrence of drought in many parts of Africa, political instability, civil strife, military conflicts, weak institutions and, often, less than effective policies to mobilize and utilize domestic resources continued to be both cause and consequence of the poor economic performance of most countries.

A majority of African countries have carried out policy reforms aimed at improving efficiency and the allocation of resources and have shown some positive results.

Costly policy reforms

By 1990, declines in economic output and in the delivery of social services had been slowed in many countries and even partially reversed in some. The ability to deploy additional resources effectively is stronger now than when UNPAAERD began.

But the continuation of these reforms, as well as the implementation of the African strategies such as the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos and the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation, is being jeopardized by the lack of even minimally adequate resources. Neither socially nor politically can this reform effort be sustained without improvements in public services and a gradual rise in real income soon becoming apparent to African consumers and voters.

In any event, it is clear that even the fullest possible reform and restructuring of African economies could not generate the resources required for sustained economic recovery for the 1990s. Africa, therefore, needs an international framework of co-operation. It needs to focus on the paramount issues, the solution of which will enable Africa to implement successfully its regional and sectoral strategies and programmes.

While there is no need to renegotiate the overall objective of sustained development, a new compact for African development in the 1990s must be forged by Africa and the international community to support Africa's development strategies. It is up to the African states to take the lead in defining this framework, in collaboration with their development partners. It is important, however, to learn from the experience of UNPAAERD and to focus on a set of objectives, issues and measures which must and can realistically be tackled in the 1990s. Not doing so would undermine the process of democratization and economic reforms now under way in the continent. ■

For more information contact the United Nations Africa Recovery Programme, Room S-3362, United Nations, NY NY 10017, United States. Tel: (212) 963-6856; Fax (212) 486-8792.

Population

Wave of boat people troubles Hong Kong

By Frances Kelly

On a recent patrol with the Hong Kong Marine police, two rickety fishing boats carrying 38 Vietnamese men, women and children were intercepted over the course of about 90 minutes. Police officers wearing surgical masks and plastic gloves helped to unload the weary and dishevelled human cargo and explained to them that they could either leave Hong Kong waters or join their compatriots in detention centres. Police inspector Joe Chan, in charge of the intercepts, was not surprised when they all chose the detention centres.

A sudden surge in new arrivals of Vietnamese boat people in Hong Kong, most of them poor farmers and fishermen from north Viet Nam who are fleeing their homeland for economic reasons, is pushing residents' patience and resources to the limit.

After 16 years of playing reluctant host to tens of thousands of boat people and doling out $100 million a year to house, feed and clothe them, Hong Kong is ready to snatch away its already tattered welcome mat. It currently accommodates almost half of the 110,000 Vietnamese boat people in South-East Asia.

UNHCR

Viet Nam's continuing isolation *and economic problems are fueling the flight of poor peasants. The refugee children are particularly at risk.*

Many Hong Kong residents would rather see boat people pushed back out to sea, even if it meant they would drown.

In recent months, Vietnamese boat people have been sailing into the tiny British colony of nearly seven million people at the rate of up to 500 a day, straining Hong Kong's overcrowded refugee camps and detention centres. More than 60,000 boat people are now crammed into squalid, rat-infested camps that teem with violence and hopelessness.

As the new influx swells, so do fears that Hong Kong may face a replay of 1989 when 34,000 Vietnamese arrived and had to be housed in tents, unused ferries and finally dumped on an island without shelter.

"We are getting extremely near a crisis situation," said Rita Fan, convenor of the Hong Kong government's security panel and a member of Hong Kong's executive and legislative councils.

As the summer sailing season continues, some local councillors are calling for an end to Hong Kong's "first asylum" policy that allows boat people to land. Councillors have already voted to cut off funding for any new camps, claiming the colony is "up to its neck in boat people".

Public opinion polls reveal just how frustrated Hong Kong people are with their increasingly unwelcome guests. One recent poll showed that 70 per cent of Hong Kong residents would rather see boat people pushed back out to sea, even if it meant they would drown.

Only 6,500 of the more than 60,000 boat people in Hong Kong are now classified as legitimate refugees and are awaiting resettlement. More than 17,000 others have had their claims for refugee status rejected and refuse to leave the detention centres in Hong Kong.

A local lobby group, the Hong Kong Citizens Forum, has collected 40,000 signatures on a petition calling for an end to the first asylum policy and supporting a plan to force boat people back to Viet Nam if their claims for refugee status have been rejected. "We are obviously coping with a good deal of local frustration," says Hong Kong's refugee co-ordinator Clinton Leeks.

"Eventually, we're going to run out of space," Leeks says. "Whether we start wedging people in and the camps explode, or whether our legislature simply says we're not going to pay for even running the camps, let alone building them, I don't know. But that obviously is a situation that is sadly getting closer."

Tension is already high inside the detention centres: they are plagued with gang warfare and outbursts of violence. At Whitehead detention centre, home to the 24,000 predominantly north Vietnamese, a 17-year-old boy was stabbed to death in June. It was the third killing in the camp in a month.

A 200-page report by Refugee Concern Hong Kong, a volunteer group that works with the boat people, claims that the more than 15,000 Vietnamese children living in the camps are being traumatized by their experiences in detention.

"Exposure to violence is part of the daily life of children," said the report, which noted youngsters often witness gang warfare, murder and rape in the camps.

Aid workers are also disturbed by the growing number of Vietnamese children who are showing up in Hong Kong unaccompanied by parents or close relatives. In the first four months of this year, more than 400 children landed in Hong Kong.

"It's not the biggest problem we face, but it probably is in a way the most tragic element of the whole thing," Leeks said.

There are some children who know nothing but camp life. The birth rate among Vietnamese boat people is almost three times higher than that for women in Hong Hong. Since 1979, more than 11,500 babies have been born in the camps.

Hong Kong has been trying for two years to get Vietnamese boat people to return to Viet Nam voluntarily, but only 7,300 have gone home so far.

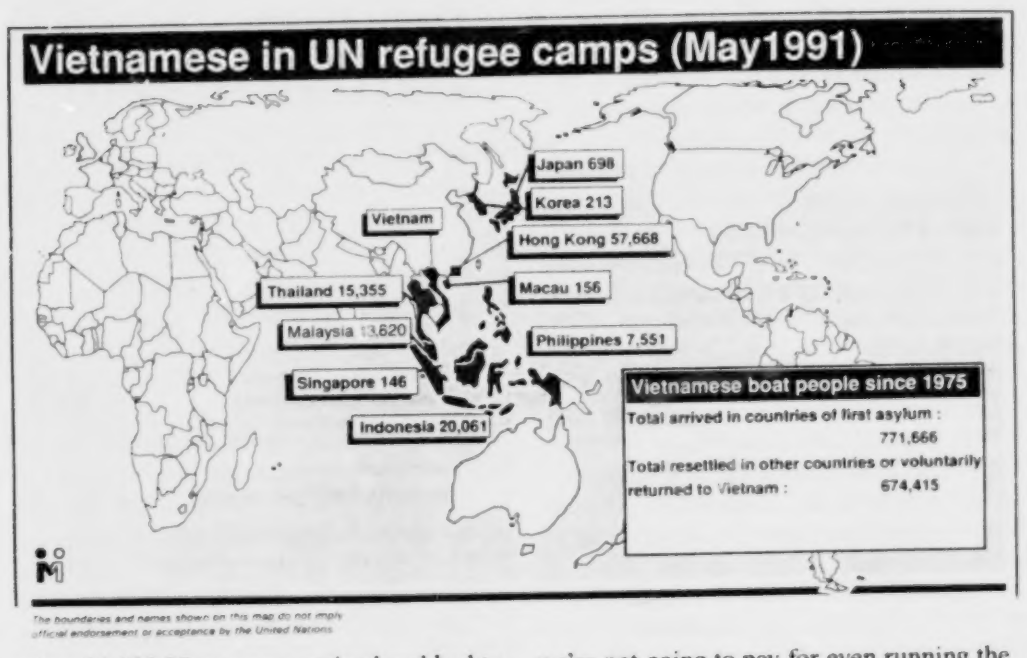
Hong Kong tried forcibly deporting boat people once, in December 1989. Police in riot gear forced 51 Vietnamese on to a plane headed for Hanoi but international outrage, especially from the United States, forced the colony to abort further plans for mandatory repatriation.

In what could be a breakthrough, Britain and Viet Nam are now planning to set up internationally supervised camps in Viet Nam to house boat people who have been rejected as refugees.

The United States has said it would not oppose the return of the boat people as long as the camps in Viet Nam were run by an international organization like the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). ■

GEMINI

Frances Kelly is a Canadian freelance reporter/photographer based in Hong Kong.


Vietnamese in UN refugee camps (May1991)
Japan 698
Korea 213
Vietnam
Hong Kong 57,668
Macau 156
Thailand 15,355
Malaysia 13,620
Philippines 7,551
Singapore 146
Indonesia 20,061
Vietnamese boat people since 1975
Total arrived in countries of first asylum : 771,666
Total resettled in other countries or voluntarily returned to Vietnam : 674,415
The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

Angola

Peace brings new population shifts

By Kate Burling

As peace takes hold in Angola, a large-scale population movement is now expected that could upset seriously what few development programmes have been established or planned for the war-stricken country.

Mass migration back to the towns is expected, especially from areas of south-east Angola controlled by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

For the past 16 years, thousands of Angolan families have lived a bush existence, gathered around the rebel movement's military-controlled camps. But with the end of the hostilities and travel comparatively safe, more and more people will head back to the towns to rejoin families and take part in the reconstruction of their country.

UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi and Angola's president José Eduardo Dos Santos signed an agreement in Portugal in June to end the 16-year war in the former Portuguese colony.

Many aid agencies seem to be holding back on programmes for Angola until a clearer picture of population patterns emerges.

Even though severe food shortages are being experienced following successive crop failures in some parts of the country, the agencies are afraid to set up projects now which might shortly be ill-matched to the population's needs and location.

At present, a United Nations special relief programme for Angola is distributing food throughout Angola, which has a population of about 10 million.

Two United States non-governmental organizations, World Vision International and the International Medical Corps—which are helping the operation in south-east Angola—are particularly worried about the implications of population movement in the coming months.

No one is sure how soon the migration will start or what kind of numbers will be involved. In particular, people are keen to see how it will affect the established communities of "UNITA country" as they break up and move away from the bush.

For 16 years these rebel communities have been organized on the basis of common co-operation for survival. For as long as many people can remember, UNITA has been a way of life, with the military and civilian groups virtually indistinguishable.

The people in and around camps such as Lukuwa, Mavinga and Jamba in southern Angola have never used money and the norms of family units have taken second place to the need to unite as an organized body.

According to the governor of Mavinga, Evaristo Ramon Chitumba, who welcomed the most recent United Nations food aid convoy and a group of journalists, UNITA had "done its best to create a new social order, based on an alternative code of socialist living".

When the community returned to the towns and the process of reconciliation began, Chitumba said a "different new order incorporating the will of all Angolan people" would emerge, but UNITA people would not lose sight of their beliefs. ■

IPS

Mexico

Radio RIN captivates young audience

By Rosa María Rodríguez

Mexico City—The moment the familiar opening notes of the lively theme music of Radio RIN hit the airwaves each morning, millions of Mexican children flock to the nearest radio as if entranced.

Radio RIN (Radio infantil nacional), which started broadcasting in 1984, certainly has a ready-made audience. It is the only radio station among the nation's 157 stations that caters exclusively to Mexico's 41 million children under 15, who comprise almost half the country's population.

Broadcasting programmes 20 hours a day, it now successfully competes with many of the country's commercial stations. It plays songs for children of all ages, broadcasts special messages to its young listeners and encourages them to express themselves and to develop creativity and self-confidence.

"We try, through our programmes, to teach the new generation to respect dialogue and reject violence," explains the dynamic station director, Martha Romo.

The popularity and success of Radio RIN, despite the onslaught of the audio-visual media, is phenomenal. How does it compete so well with television? "Each media has its own language," says Romo. "Children today are 'multi-media'. At first I was surprised that children could watch TV and listen to the radio at the same time. But they often tell me, 'I put on the TV, but when I'm afraid I also listen to the radio'."

Since large numbers of children with working parents tend to spend long hours in front of the television, watching commercials and programmes with no educational content, the radio has a critical gap to fill. And Radio RIN strives hard to do just that.

"Despite the fact that Radio RIN has no production budget, co-productions with various official institutions enable us to offer our young audience new programmes," says Romo. Its 23-strong staff of scriptwriters, programmers, producers, music specialists and announcers work together to produce innovative programmes in science, music, art, entertainment, education and current affairs.

Apart from daily radio programmes, RIN, which is affiliated with the government-subsidized Mexican Radio Institute, also runs campaigns to spread the word on health and nutrition and against child abuse and physical violence.

Its programmes are sometimes requested by schools and even kindergartens to reinforce a particular classroom project. The programme, "Ruiditos" ("Little Noises"), for instance, a five-minute programme for toddlers, was requested by the education ministry's pre-school department for use in state-run kindergartens.

The influence this radio station has on its ardent young fans was clearly evident during the last national book fair held in the capital, Mexico City. A broadcasting booth set up by Radio RIN in the fair's workshop area attracted the largest crowd, mostly kids, of course. The children enjoyed broadcasting a variety of messages to adults, singing songs, reciting poetry and telling jokes.

"Unlike other local stations, RIN is a talk-show station. We don't have our own recording studios—we share our studio with four other stations," says Romo, the driving creative force behind the station.

Radio RIN also has its own creative strategy to keep children abreast of current affairs worldwide. For instance, earlier this year, at the height of the Persian Gulf war, the station and local authorities from the capital's Alvaro Obregon district organized a "peace festival" in a Mexico City park.

Nearly 8,000 people attended the festival and hundreds of children aged between four and 11 were interviewed by Radio RIN. Most of them said they were regular listeners. Almost 80 per cent of them were from working class homes and the rest were from middle class families.

"My favourite is 'Notisi' (a news programme produced and directed by children). But what I like best of all is getting on the radio and asking questions. They always answer my phone calls," said six-year-old Lucía of Mexico City.

Radio RIN recently boosted its signal, allowing children in other states to hear the broadcasts. Programmes find their way onto other radio stations around the country, thanks to a law which allows the government to use up to 12.5 per cent of a radio station's air time to transmit whatever information it considers necessary. Thus the special commission that decides which programmes should be broadcast has promoted the broadcast of Radio RIN's programmes on several other stations as well. ■

Beryl Goldberg

***Despite the growing** predominance of television, radio continues to play a central role in Mexican homes. Above, a boy in Jalapa watches TV, which shares the shelf with a blender and a radio.*

Rosa María Rodríguez is a correspondent for Women's Feature Service.

Mozambique

Talk show takes on population issues

By Gil Lauriciano

Maputo—According to a recent man-in-the-street survey conducted by a popular national television talk show, the grinding poverty that afflicts the majority of Mozambicans has not turned their attention to planning population growth. "What? Look here, there are few of us," one Mozambican told a television reporter. "We were not many to start with and with the war, we have become even fewer."

"Are we many or few?" is the question posed every week by television reporters to various interviewees here in a new television programme on environment and population. Generally people do not see population as a problem, but a new awareness of its relationship to development and existing resources is slowly taking hold.

When the talk show became a hot subject of debate on the streets of Mozambique's capital, Maputo, demographers who had helped design the talk show congratulated themselves for "achieving the objective" of raising awareness regarding the relationship between population and development.

"We had no doubt of the media's great influence. Our goal is to get the message across to the people," says Carlos Samaniego, a United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) official working with the Mozambican government.

The weekly programmes on population issues aired by Mozambique's national television are part of a pilot project initiated by the government with support from UNFPA. For the first time since its independence from Portuguese colonial rule in 1975, the government is devising a policy to harmonize population size, growth rate and distribution on a national scale.

But using the media to raise public awareness and understanding the relationship of population growth to development is a completely new phenomenon in Mozambique, which has a high annual population growth rate of about 3.0 per cent.

In co-operation with the respective ministries of information and national mass media organizations, UNFPA is also helping to develop population information, education and communication (IEC) programmes for the public in Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Senegal, Uganda and Tanzania.

At least 400,000 babies are born annually in Mozambique, mainly in poor families. The mortality rate among children under five years of age averages 300 per 1,000. When the last census was taken in 1980, Mozambique had a population of 15 million, 60 per cent of whom were classified as living in "absolute poverty".

The government's decision to promote the IEC programme through television was prompted by the high illiteracy rate of around 80 per cent in the adult population and the long-running civil war which has devastated the traditional educational infrastructure.

"We are just beginning and the replies we get from interviewees do not worry us. In fact, they could be right," says Samaniego. One interviewee, for example, asked the reporter if he had ever travelled to the countryside and seen the nation's vast, uninhabited spaces.

But the UNFPA official wondered if the people understood the relationship between the size of the country and the extent of its resources and the low level of development that characterizes this impoverished southern African nation.

The TV talk shows are mixed with films of population programmes from other countries with long experience in the field, particularly Latin America, to enable Mozambican viewers to compare their own situation.

According to Roberto Castilla, UNFPA representative in Mozambique, training of local journalists and public service workers in population matters is also part of the IEC programme in the effort to reach Mozambicans from all walks of life. ■

IPS

Philippines

Batibot update

Manila—Pong and Kiko, television characters who were objects of a copyright battle between their United States creators and Filipino producers (see "Custody battle over muppets", *DF*, March-April 1991), will continue to delight Filipino children—and in new costumes yet!

The two characters were created by the New York-based Children's Television Workshop (CTW) for *Batibot*, a Filipino offshoot of a home-grown version of Sesame Street. Pong and Kiko are the local production's counterparts to Big Bird and Kermit the Frog.

Recently, however, CTW demanded that the two muppets not be used any longer in the show, arguing that *Batibot*'s producer was marketing it elsewhere in Asia in direct competition with CTW's Sesame Street.

The custody battle that ensued has now been resolved. Philippine Children's Television Foundation Inc., the owner of *Batibot*, has agreed to pay CTW $20,000 every two years, and in return CTW will create new costumes for Pong and Kiko, whose appearance had been neglected during the dispute.

India

Cigarette industry under siege

By Mahesh Uniyal

New Delhi—Hit by new taxes and a likely advertising ban, India's booming cigarette market is headed for a slump, to the delight of health experts.

In July, new levies were slapped on cigarettes by the government, which nets a whopping $1 billion annually from taxing the country's smokers.

The Indian health ministry may also soon prohibit cigarette advertisements in the print media on the advice of activists who have been campaigning long and hard for the ban.

According to WHO, cigarette-smoking is declining in industrialized nations by 1.1 per cent a year, but rising in the Third World by 2.1 per cent annually.

Tobacco companies are not allowed to peddle their merchandise on the country's state-controlled radio and television.

Indian health activists are pleased that their anti-smoking campaign has been taken seriously by the government. "We don't expect changes overnight. It will take at least a decade for tobacco to go out of India, but our movement has caught on very well," says Taposh Roy of the Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI).

The proposed moves certainly represent a serious setback for cigarette producers. If banned in newspapers and magazines which are read by millions of consumers, Indian cigarette-makers may not be able to sell the 90 billion cigarettes produced every year.

Orde Eliason/Impact Visuals

For the past several years, however, the cigarette industry has been booming. The catchy, high-budget cigarette promotion campaigns have hooked more and more Indians on a habit that most do not realize is injurious to their health.

While roughly one million people in this South Asian country die of tobacco-related diseases every year, four times as many are smoking today as did two decades ago, a study has estimated.

According to a market survey by Operations Research Group (ORG), Indian cigarette companies have dramatically increased advertising budgets. While they spent over $1 million in 1986, manufacturers invested nearly $5 million in 1990 to promote new and old brands of cigarettes in a market far from saturated.

VHAI has teamed up with 100 anti-tobacco groups to increase public awareness of the hazards of smoking. The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have also been campaigning for a crackdown on unscrupulous cigarette companies.

"What worries us most is that advertising is aimed solely at adolescents and other potential smokers, and not to make users switch brands as companies claim," says Roy.

Since 1989 VHAI has been working "successfully" with children in over 300 schools in New Delhi to enlighten them about the long-term dangers of smoking.

India's thriving cigarette market has lured Western tobacco giants in search of new export outlets to offset tumbling sales at home because of strong domestic anti-smoking campaigns.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), cigarette smoking is declining in industrialized nations at a rate of 1.1 per cent a year, but is rising in the Third World by 2.1 per cent annually.

Foreign brands are aggressively marketed in the country's cities to capture a market among affluent and middle class Indians who are keen about everything which is not made in India.

While some cigarettes are smuggled into the country, others like "Rothmans" and "Dunhill" are made and marketed in India under licence from parent companies abroad.

The United States leads the world in tobacco exports and its cigarette sales to Asia had increased by 75 per cent in 1988, according to the American Medical Association.

Health experts believe smoking is a major cause for the high rate of premature deaths in India. Though cigarette packs carry the mandatory health warning, activists say the message is vague and does not inform the smoker of the tar and nicotine levels.

Moreover, cigarette companies must inform consumers of the pesticidal content of the product, experts assert. Indian cigarettes contain dangerous amounts of chemical pesticides sprayed by farmers on the delicate tobacco plants. ■

Mahesh Uniyal is a correspondent for Inter Press Service.

Sri Lanka

Beach boys at risk

By Mallika Waningasundara

Colombo—The message that AIDS is an incurable and potentially fatal disease spread by unprotected sexual intercourse or sharing dirty needles is not getting across to the estimated 2,500 Sri Lankan boy prostitutes—or beach boys—who earn their living from male tourists in this South Asian country. Although the problem is still relatively contained, the potential for widespread HIV infection is high among these youths—and the alternatives few.

In an effort to reach them, the Family Planning Association (FPA) of Sri Lanka has undertaken an AIDS education and prevention campaign aimed at beach boys in Tangalle and Hambatota in the south of the country. The seminars have attracted boys and young men ranging in age from their teens to late twenties.

Not surprisingly, according to Sriani Basnayake of FPA, his organization found that the beach boys generally believed AIDS to be simply another *samaja roga*—literally, social disease—the Sinhala phrase for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Those young men who injected drugs did not know that AIDS could be spread by sharing needles with an infected person.

Since reports of AIDS cases in Sri Lanka began to be registered with the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, George Fernando, director-general of government health services, has announced that 500 to 600 Sri Lankans have tested HIV positive and believes that the actual number could be higher. Foreigners known to have AIDS have been deported.

One of the problems is that there are no active homosexual groups in Sri Lanka to which the beach boys can turn for information or support. But fortunately the FPA seminars struck a chord, and the beach boys had many questions, such as: "Will I get the infection if I use my own needle?", "What will happen to me if I get the disease?" and "Is there no cure?"

During the meetings, some of the boys suggested that hotel and guesthouse owners needed AIDS information. This idea was also supported by the sex "brokers"—the middlemen between foreign male tourists and the boys—who had helped to organize the seminars.

As AIDS workers in other countries have learned, the beach boys revealed many concerns and AIDS was certainly not high on the list. Thus the seminars have focused not only on AIDS information but on a range of topics that affect their lives. They are also encouraged to examine their present lifestyles and various options available and then help them make informed decisions. The circumstances of their work as prostitutes present formidable obstacles to change.

FPA fears an uphill battle for young sex workers wishing to put their newly-acquired AIDS prevention knowledge to work. Almost all come from poor working class or fishing families and have few economic alternatives to prostitution. If their wealthier foreign partners refused to use condoms, many would make the dangerous trade-off of hard currency for potential risk of HIV infection.

According to Nandasena Ratnapala, an anthropologist and sociologist who has been researching prostitution in Sri Lanka, most of the boys undervalue education, believing that even if they continued their schooling, they could not hope for a job. Tourist-oriented prostitution generates special benefits. The boys and their families have received gifts such as clothes, cameras, bicycles, cars and, in some cases, land, houses and shops. One of the biggest attractions is the opportunity to go abroad.

If their foreign partners refuse to use condoms, many accept dangerous trade-off of cash at the risk of AIDS.

Said one of the boys of his foreign lover: "We have nothing to lose. He loves me, and but for him I would never have gotten this opportunity to travel. Even my parents approve."

Selling sex to foreigners may be more than an economic transaction. It is also a matter of prestige to socialize with foreign tourists. The boys go into hotels which they could never have entered without their patrons, and drop a few words of German or French with their friends.

Although the police attempt to control sex tourism involving under-age boys by patrolling the beaches of Narigama on the south-west coast, their presence only drives the beach boys underground.

"The beach boys are very elusive," says Gamini Jayakuru, director of the anti-STD campaign and a member of the AIDS task force. "If we local people go to the Marine Drive in Colombo, they vanish. But when they spot a foreign tourist, they flock around him."

Says Ratnapala: "Beach boys are very much at risk. But we cannot tackle this problem by education alone. It is a combination of complex circumstances, activities and values. We have to find a satisfying alternative lifestyle for these young people."

The civil unrest and communal violence plaguing Sri Lanka compounds the difficulties AIDS educators face, since many young men have adopted a fatalistic attitude towards an invisible virus which might kill them in 10 years' time: "How do we know we will be alive tomorrow? Let's enjoy ourselves in the time that is left," they say. ■

World AIDS Press Institute

Prime time telenovelas

Continued from page 1

Venezuelan productions. But these tactics work because of the very broad popular appeal of a formula that is seen as an attractive alternative to the kinds of programming offered by the United States, which continues to dominate the global market in dollar terms.

Like North American daytime "soap operas", *telenovelas* were originally produced by their sponsors, detergent companies such as Lever Bros. and Colgate-Palmolive. These advertisers were primarily interested in an audience of middle-class housewives.

But since the 1960s the Latin American television companies themselves have produced and sold their own programmes. To expand their market, these producers have been successful at reaching all classes, especially the urban poor, and men as well as women. This interest in working-class

To expand their market, producers reach out to all classes, especially the urban poor and men as well as women.

and lower-middle-class characters and settings sharply contrasts with North American soaps which tend to be obsessed with upper-class lifestyles and values—or lack of them.

Telenovelas, designed to be broadcast in prime (evening) time, also tend to be more violent and more sexually explicit than North American "soaps", as well as mixing scenes of opulence with much shabbier, more realistic scenes of the lives of the poor. Their relatively short and flexible programme cycles permit more experimentation with different themes, and actors. They also often comment on current social and political problems, which are a significant part of their appeal at home.

Telenovelas are produced in nine Latin American countries, led by Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela, each of which produces more than 1,000 hours per year. A single company dominates the industry in Mexico (Televisa) and in Brazil (TV Globo), whereas in Venezuela, Radio Caracas and Venevision compete intensely with each other and with the smaller government station, which strives for tonier, more educational productions, often on historical themes or classics of Venezuelan literature.

The serials, popular with advertisers wanting to repeat their messages to a steady audience, are very profitable. An episode of a Venezuelan *telenovela*, for example, typically costs about $12,000 to produce, according to Television Business International, and ad revenues from the home market alone will generate almost twice that amount.

These are sold to the Spanish-language networks in the United States for about $6,000 to $8,000 per episode, or roughly $1 million for a 150-part series, and can earn another $2 million in sales to other Latin American countries. They can expect to make $3 million more in European markets. In recent years, Brazil's TV Globo was selling 40-minute episodes in Italy for $3,000 to $6,000, whereas a half-hour of North American programming costs between $6,000 and $48,000.

Because of their consistent popularity, the Venezuelan productions are now used to test the market so that plots, characters, settings and themes can be fine tuned to attract the largest audience. "The testing screen for *telenovelas* is ours," says Gustavo Basalo Sucre, programming director of Radio Caracas TV. "Whatever works in the ratings in Venezuela works internationally."

The testing is partly intuitive, partly scientific, and continuous, proceeding even as the series is being developed. "The show that's on tonight was taped yesterday," says Basalo, who quotes his colleagues as saying, "it's part of the chemistry. The *novela* is like life. You don't know what's going to happen tomorrow. Even the actors are surprised."

Besides "chemistry", such short lead times permit day-to-day adjustments. Studios in both Venezuela and Brazil make frequent surveys of audience reaction—in Venezuela, daily and door-to-door. A popular character's role may be expanded, an unpopular one's changed or reduced, a successful novel may be extended or a bad one suddenly cut short, and so on according to the survey results.

Other unforeseen events may also require script adjustment. Arquímedes Rivero, manager of dramatic programmes in Venevision, recalls that once a lead actor left for a better contract with the competition. The character suddenly had a terrible accident that required plastic surgery, and after a few episodes with his face bandaged, a new actor appeared in the role.

There are a lot of activities on the screen. Vivel Noel, who heads the team of scriptwriters for the popular Venevision *novela* "Paraíso" ("Paradise"), explains that each one-hour episode will have 30 to 35 scenes, which she distributes among the four young women and one man on her team. The scenes hop from sub-plot to sub-plot, at times slipping new characters and complications into the story. Settings are sharply differentiated—interiors, exteriors, hovels, mansions, and so on—as are the characters, by dress, accent, and other signs of background and status. The Venezuelan shows have the reputation of emphasizing the "daily life of the people", according to Rosita Peru, who buys them for the North American-based network Univision.

Univision

Brazilian actress Maite Proenca *in the universally popular "Doña Beija", a telenovela set in the 19th century.*

It is an idealized daily life, certainly, where amazing coincidence is almost routine and justice always triumphs. According to Manuel Bermúdez, a Venezuelan scholar and expert on the genre, the typical central story-line progresses from sin to redemption, love betrayed to love rewarded, or rejection of an illegitimate child to her or his triumph.

Often the poor heroine discovers her true aristocratic identity and lives happily ever after. Increasingly in recent years, murder and infidelity are used to draw a larger male audience. These are all classical themes drawing on roots in medieval literature, if not before, but the settings are very modern.

In years past, when military dictatorships reigned in much of South America, scripts emphasizing political freedom and resistance against oppression were not let into Argentina, Chile, and other military-dominated countries. Even today, with the restoration of democracy, Brazilian scripts must be submitted to the censors, who have frequently demanded excision of entire chapters or scenes deemed politically offensive—nudity, however, does not seem to offend them.

Venezuela is more liberal politically, but more conservative socially and sexually. Actors are at least partially covered

The telenovela is like life. You don't know what's going to happen tomorrow. Even the actors are surprised.

even in the frequent love scenes, and abortion, if treated at all, is handled very delicately. Also, the stations try to avoid offending local interest groups by portraying, for example, a corrupt lawyer or doctor or a priest who breaks his vow of chastity.

As for international market constraints, Marcel Granier, president of Radio Caracas TV, believes that even though Venezuela might tolerate it, other countries are not ready for a "serious" treatment of urban poverty, although recent shows such as "Señora" and "Amanda Sabater", both of which had sub-plots set in the slums, seemed to be testing the limits of this restriction.

Further, the heroine must be "pure and virginal, giving herself to only one man, the man she loves", says Noel. "Even if she then marries someone else"—these stories do get complicated—"she can't let that other man touch her. The man can, of course—that's our machismo tradition."

As they now dominate prime time in the huge Spanish-speaking television market in the United States, the next step for the *telenovela* industry is to gain a larger share of the English-language audience of the most lucrative market in the world. And that's coming. Soon, Victor Cámara, the male lead of "Paraíso", can be seen on Fox Television in the first Spanish-language *novela* dubbed in English for the North American market, the Venezuelan production "Topaz" ("Topacio"). ■

Univision

Actors at work *in Venezuelan soap "Aleanzar una Estrella". Productions often contain over 200 episodes, written and produced on a daily basis.*

Geoffrey Fox is a specialist in Latin American social and political issues and author of The Land and People of Venezuela *(HarperCollins) and of the short-story collection* Welcome to My Contri *(Lintel).*

Sustainable development is possible only if we forgo growth

By Herman E. Daly

Although it appears unlikely, one positive outcome of the upcoming Earth Summit may be the realization that "sustainable development", a term that has taken on almost magical qualities, is, in fact, a contradiction in terms. Currently the term is used as a synonym for "sustainable growth", which, when applied to our economic life, will lead environmental and development policy makers down a dead-end street.

Put simply, we cannot grow forever: sustainable growth is an impossibility and policies based on this notion are unrealistic—and dangerous.

In its physical dimensions, the economy is an open subsystem of the earth ecosystem which is finite, non-growing and materially closed. As the economic subsystem grows, it incorporates an even greater proportion of the total ecosystem into itself and must reach a limit at 100 per cent, if not before. Therefore its growth is not sustainable.

Economists will complain that growth in gross national product (GNP) is a mixture of quantitative and qualitative increases and therefore not strictly subject to physical laws. They have a point. Quantitative and qualitative changes are very different. When something grows it gets bigger. When something develops it gets different. The earth's ecosystem develops (evolves), but does not grow. Its subsystem, the economy, must eventually stop growing, but can continue to develop and change indefinitely.

Stress-induced feedbacks from the ecosystem indicate that even the current growth in resource use is unsustainable.

The term "sustainable development" therefore makes sense for the economy, but only if it is understood as "development without growth"—i.e. qualitative improvement of a physical economic base that is maintained in a steady state defined by the limits of the ecosystem.

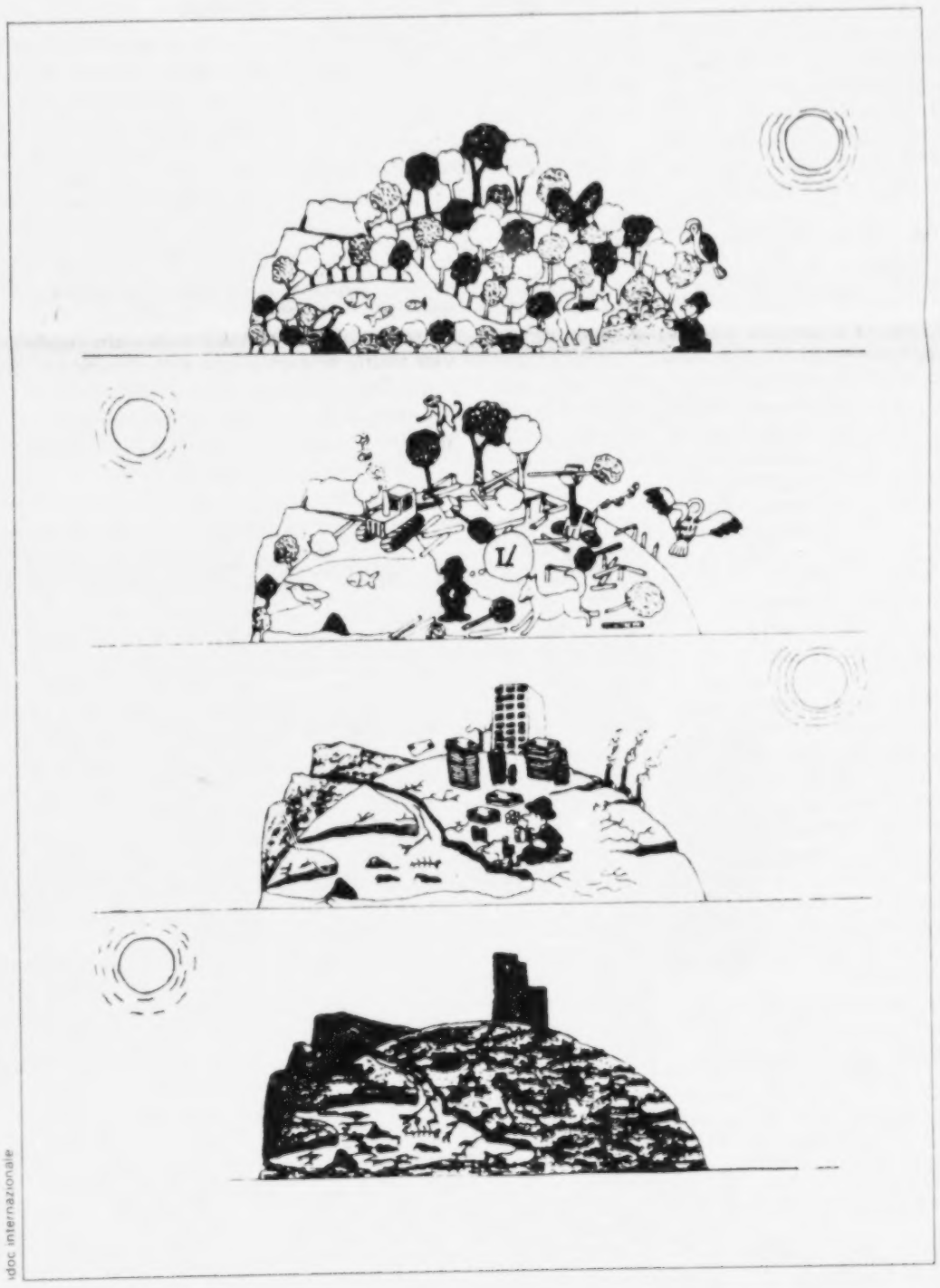
Politically it is very difficult to admit that growth, with its almost religious connotations of ultimate goodness, must be limited. But it is precisely the non-sustainability of growth that gives urgency to the concept of sustainable development.

Exponential growth

In the past two centuries we have developed a culture dependent on exponential growth for its economic stability. Sustainable development is a cultural adaptation being made as we become aware of the emerging necessity of non-growth. Even "green growth" is not sustainable. There is a limit to the population of trees the earth can support, just as there is a limit to the populations of humans and of automobiles. To delude ourselves into believing that growth is still possible and desirable if only we label it "sustainable" or colour it "green" will just delay the inevitable adjustments and make them more painful.

If the economy cannot grow forever, by how much can it grow? Can it grow by enough to give everyone in the world today a standard of *per capita* resource use equal to that of the average American? That would turn out to be a factor of seven, a figure that is neatly bracketed by the Brundtland Commission's call for the expansion of the world economy by a factor of five to 10.

The problem is that even expansion by a factor of four is impossible if experts are correct in their calculation that the human economy currently pre-empts one-fourth of the global net primary product of photosynthesis (NPP). Since land-based ecosystems are the more relevant, and we pre-empt 40 per cent of land-based NPP, even the factor of four is an overestimate.



If growth up to the factor of five to 10 recommended by the Brundtland Commission is impossible, then what about just sustaining the present scale—i.e. zero net growth? Every day we read about stress-induced feedbacks from the ecosystem to the economy, which indicate that even the present scale is unsustainable. Currently growth in resource use seems to increase environmental costs faster than it increases production benefits, making us poorer, not richer. Sustainable development must be development without growth—but with population control and wealth redistribution—if it is to be a serious attack on poverty.

An economy in sustainable development adapts and improves in knowledge, organization, technical efficiency, and wisdom. It does this without assimilating or accreting, beyond some point, an ever greater percentage of the matter-energy of the ecosystem into itself, but rather stops at a scale at which the remaining ecosystem (the environment) can continue to function and renew itself year after year. The non-growing economy is not static—it is being continually maintained and renewed as a steady-state subsystem of the environment.

Politically it is very difficult to admit that economic growth, with its connotations of ultimate goodness, must be limited.

Policy implications

What policies are implied by this goal of sustainable development? Both optimists and pessimists should be able to agree on the following policy for the industrialized countries, where truly sustainable development should begin: Strive to hold throughput constant at present levels (or reduced truly sustainable levels) by reducing the income tax, especially on the lower end of the income distribution, perhaps even financing a negative income tax at the very low end. Optimists who believe that resource efficiency can increase by a factor of 10 should welcome this policy which raises resource prices considerably and would give a powerful incentive to just those technological advances in which they have so much faith. Pessimists who lack that technological faith will nevertheless be happy to see restrictions placed on the size of the already unsustainable throughput. The pessimists are protected against their worst fears; the optimists are encouraged to pursue their fondest dreams.

At the project level, there are some additional policy guidelines for sustainable development. Renewable resources should be exploited in such a manner that harvesting rates do not exceed regeneration rates, and waste emissions do not exceed the renewable assimilative capacity of the local environment.

Non-renewable resources should be depleted at a rate equal to the rate of creation of renewable substitutes. Projects based on exploitation of non-renewable resources should be paired with projects that develop renewable substitutes so that by the time the non-renewable is exhausted, the renewable substitute is sufficient to maintain output.

However, before these operational steps toward sustainable development can get a fair hearing, we must first take the conceptual and political step of abandoning the thought-stopping slogan of "sustainable growth". ■

Herman E. Daly is a senior economist, Environment Department, World Bank. The views presented here are those of the author and should in no way be attributed to the World Bank.

As I See It

Readers are invited to submit opinion essays on subjects of economic and social importance. Please limit submissions to 750 words.

Manuscripts should be accompanied by a self-addressed envelope if you want to ensure editor's response. For queries by telephone, call (212) 963-8070.

Send manuscripts to:

Development Forum
P.O. Box 5850
Grand Central Station
New York, N.Y. 10163-5850 USA

doc internazionale

Andrew Lichtenstein Impact Visuals

A foster mother *in New York City cares for an AIDS baby whose mother had just died of the disease.*

Orphaned by AIDS

By the year 2000, ten million uninfected children worldwide under the age of 10 will be orphaned as their parents die of AIDS, the World Health Organization (WHO) predicts. By the end of the century, WHO estimates that another ten million children will have contracted the AIDS virus, *and most of them will die by the year 2000.*

A new report by the private National Council for International Health (NCIH), based in the United States, recommends how non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and donor agencies can improve and expand their care for children who have contracted the AIDS virus or who have been orphaned due to the AIDS epidemic.

The report, *Children Orphaned by AIDS: A Call for Action for NGOs and Donors*, was drafted based upon discussions at an AIDS Orphans Workshop convened by NCIH in October 1990 in Washington, DC.

"NGOs, because they already have established contacts and programmes at the community level throughout the Third World, are in an excellent position to help orphans," said Russell Morgan, Jr., president of NCIH. "In fact, many are already working with orphans. But, they do need to improve coordination and direction among themselves. And they need substantially more support from donor agencies, most notably the WHO and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)."

"The orphan population we are currently serving is only the first wave of what is predicted to be a massive problem," said Shamseh Poonawala, manager of the NCIH HIV/AIDS Project and principal author of the study. "With the limited resources available for all Third World AIDS efforts, it is essential that governmental agencies, donors and NGOs pool their efforts and work together, rather than compete."

Poonawala also noted that donors must begin to fund programmes that enhance NGO efforts, rather than restrict them. "WHO and USAID, who control nearly all AIDS funding for the Third World, have a history of funding only narrowly focused programmes, such as prevention or training," she explained. "However, NGOs have also found that programmes in home care and counselling to families of HIV-infected children are needed."

NCIH is a non-profit advocacy, education and information organization dedicated to improving world health.

National Council for International Health, 1701 K Street, N.W., Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006, United States. Tel. (202) 833-5900; Fax (202) 833-0075.

Corrections

The item "Women and UNCED", (*DF*, July-August, p. 21) should have begun: "The Global Assembly is being convened under the sponsorship of the Senior Women's Advisory Group on Sustainable Development (SWAGSD) to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and organized by WorldWIDE Network, an international women's network." We regret any inconvenience.

The article, "EC funds available for NGO projects" (*Development Forum*, May-June 1991, p. 21), should have begun: "The European Community is accepting applications for funds available to European NGOs in developing countries." Thus, non-European NGOs cannot apply directly to the European Community but should first affiliate themselves with European NGOs.

Calendar

21-24 November 1991
Learning Together/Working Together: A South-North Dialogue, Washington, DC, United States.

In 1989, the fourth international conference of the Association for Women in Development (AWID) brought together over 700 participants from 40 countries to examine women's political, economic, educational and cultural empowerment.

This year's forum will build on the momentum of the last by providing a venue for considering empowerment strategies in more depth and for linking with others to advance common agenda.

Practitioners from the South and North will compare their strategies and gain new insights into what works; scholars and policy-makers will present theories and frameworks that further enrich the creation of effective efforts for change.

Participants will focus on the "how-to's" of actually improving women's lives and futures. Workshops will present useful and tested tools for such improvement.

The AWID forum brings together a special mix of people who work for women's empowerment from different perspectives and whose efforts can be strengthened through listening and learning from one another.

AWID is a non-profit organization created to bring policy-makers, researchers and practitioners together to examine the roles of women in the development process. It engages in activities promoting women's full participation in development for the benefit of women themselves and to achieve economic and social progress. AWID serves as a clearing-house for ideas on women and development, provides leadership in defining emerging issues and constitutes a professional network of persons engaged in development activities.

To register, write to AWID Registration, Kansas State University, 141 College Court Bldg., Manhattan, KS 66506-6015, United States. Tel. (913) 532-5569; Fax (913) 532-5637.

Resources

1991 InterAction Member Profiles

This directory contains expanded and detailed information about the 125 members of InterAction—the American Council for Voluntary International Action—including addresses and personnel, descriptions of goals and programmes, countries of activity, publication information and financial data.

It highlights the diverse community of United States NGOs and allows for quick access to information on relief, development, refugee assistance and global education activities.

Member Profiles is a vital resource for scholars, students, practitioners and professionals, as well as employment seekers and individuals or groups concerned with international humanitarian efforts.

To order, send prepaid requests to Janice Curreri, InterAction, 200 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10003, United States. Tel. (212) 777-8210. $25.00 + $3.00 shipping.

Financial Management of Micro-Credit Programmes: A Guidebook for NGOs

Written by Robert Peck Christen, director of ACCION International in Chile, the manual thoroughly reviews the many aspects of financial management with which micro-enterprise programme managers must contend. Based on the 30 years of experience of ACCION-affiliated programmes throughout Latin America, and on regional financial management training workshops conducted by the author, the manual provides specific guidelines on computerized information systems, portfolio and accounting reports, financial analysis of programme performance, the establishment of interest rates and budgeting.

ACCION International is an independent non-profit organization whose business development programmes create employment opportunities and income for poor families in the Americas. Over the past 26 years, ACCION has worked to promote self-help economic development activities among tiny urban businesses and rural farmers.

ACCION International, Attn: Publications, 130 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA 02139, United States. Tel. (617) 492-4930; Fax (617) 876-9509. $19.00 (English); $15.00 (Spanish).

NGOs to set Earth Summit agenda in Paris

In December, over 850 representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will meet in Paris to determine their own agenda for action in preparation for the Earth Summit next June. A major feature of this conference, which will be hosted by the French government, is that a significant number of the NGO participants will represent grassroots organizations from the South and the North, this to assure that the conference is not dominated by what can be characterized as international "NGO bureaucrats" that tend to always congregate at such gatherings.

The Environmental Liaison Centre International (ELCI), an umbrella forum of predominantly environmental organizations, was selected by the French to act as the secretariat for this unique NGO initiative.

One of the most interesting aspects of the conference is the process for the preparation of the working documents for the agenda of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Since March a team of drafters from India, Argentina, Kenya, Hungary, Norway, the United States and several other countries have been gathering information and case studies on successful campaigns, examples of where NGOs have changed government policy as it relates to environment and development and the results of regional and national consultations from Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

The resulting document, *Roots for the Future*, will contain case studies, declarations, charters and policy statements collected from NGOs worldwide. This compendium will be distributed by ELCI before the Paris conference to all participants and other interested groups.

A second section will provide a synthesis of NGO activities to date, and the third document will be a short conclusion, in handbook form, called *Our Agenda*. This will contain the draft plan of action for the NGO community for the Earth Summit and the remaining years of this decade.

The synthesis and *Our Agenda* will be draft conference documents, which undoubtedly will be revised in Paris.

Final edit of these preliminary conference documents will begin in early October. If you have a contribution from your organization that you would like to be included in the compendium, please send it by 25 September 1991 to the address listed below. If you cannot make this deadline, it will be possible for it to be included in the second volume.

Contributions from your organization to be included in the compendium should be "action and policy oriented" or a relevant case study of programme or project in the area of environment and development at either the grassroots community, national or regional levels. These should be written in a lively journalistic style. Please do not send promotional material as this will not be included.

Send material to Ronald Kingham, special assistant, Towards 1992 Programme, Environment and Development Liaison Centre, 26 Blvd. Louis Schmidtlaan, 1040 Brussels, Belgium. Tel: +32 (2) 736-8050; Fax: +32 (2) 735-8895; E-Mail: GEO2:EDRC:, gn.edrc.

M.M.

The NGO as bridge: Dealing with multiple constituencies

By L. David Brown

Many NGOs are "bridging organizations" that must work effectively with several different constituencies in order to carry out their missions. In this role, they require a number of special skills, the lack of which invariably leads to internal and external conflict. L. David Brown, president of the Boston-based Institute for Development Research (IDR), prepared this essay on handling this bridging role effectively for Private Agencies Collaborating Together (PACT), a New York-based NGO which specializes in management resources for private voluntary organizations.

Development non-governmental organizations (NGOs) must be credible to donors if they are to get resources; they must provide relevant support to grassroots groups to improve the lives of the poor. For example, the Indonesian Environmental Forum (WALHI) must provide persuasive policy analyses to influence the government of Indonesia, good linkages to grassroots activists to generate resources from international donors, and relevant services to its NGO members to survive as an effective network.

Bridging organizations span the economic, political and cultural chasms that often separate the diverse stakeholders in social and economic development. The work of the Institute for Development Research (IDR) with bridging organizations has led us to believe that they present unique challenges to their leaders and staff. They serve multiple "customers", whose demands may be inconsistent or even contradictory.

For instance, many NGOs find themselves pressed to be accountable to donors. When such pressures supersede other concerns, the organization may become, for all practical purposes, a "donor-driven" agency that responds slowly to the concerns of their ostensible beneficiaries. For other organizations, the demands of beneficiaries may drown out the voices of other constituencies. "Beneficiary-driven" organizations attend to grassroots concerns even at the risk of losing touch with their critical resources.

Most NGOs pay some attention to multiple constituencies. They struggle to bridge the differences between donors, beneficiaries, policy-makers and the public; they seek ways to responsibly serve the interests of diverse constituencies; they look for creative syntheses that allow mutual gains among their varied stakeholders.

Leaders of bridging organizations often feel that they can do no right. Whatever action they choose, some of their constituencies will be outraged.

The bridging organization role offers at least four organizational challenges and one important opportunity.

Managing differences

Organizations that bridge gaps among diverse constituencies often find themselves in conflict. One United States community development agency, for example, became highly frustrated with the contradictory demands of certain black groups and white corporations. The agency reduced its frustration by reducing contact with the offending constituencies, only to find that it could not accomplish its mission of creating new enterprises until it built the organizational capacity to work with those groups.

Without accountability to multiple constituencies, the attention of bridging organizations too easily focuses on the concerns of a few.

On other occasions, conflict may erupt within the NGO itself. Many large NGOs find that differences in goals and values among field staff and fund raisers produce misunderstanding and conflict. Some NGOs have developed systems of communication and joint problem solving to increase mutual acceptance and understanding.

Multiple accountabilities

If bridging organizations are to serve multiple constituencies, they need mechanisms for being accountable to each. The dice are loaded in favour of accountability to donors, because powerful systems exist for accounting for financial resources, and because donors have considerable power in their relationship with poor recipients.

We need to know more about how poor and powerless constituencies can hold bridging organizations accountable. A recent evaluation process that invited African organizations to evaluate the donor USA for Africa — rather than have the donor evaluate them — is an intriguing experiment in learning from beneficiaries. Without accountability to multiple constituencies, the attention of bridging organizations too easily focuses on the concerns of a few.

Synthesizing interests

Working at the intersection of conflicting interests can be a burden, and bridging organizations may protect themselves from the uncertainties they face. Proliferating policies and manuals to cover every eventuality, for example, may reduce demands for managing conflicts, but at the expense of flexibility and opportunity for innovation.

An alternative approach is to conceive of the organization's role as bringing together different perspectives in the service of encouraging dialogue, educating constituencies about each other, and creating new concepts and perspectives that take into account multiple interests. For example, the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), India, invited both donors and beneficiaries to participate in its self-evaluation process. The resulting discussions stimulated both PRIA and its evaluators to reconceive their future collaborations for wider national and regional impact.

Besieged leadership

Leaders of bridging organizations often feel that they can do no right. Whatever action they choose, some of their constituencies will be outraged. For executives who expect to enjoy respect and influence by virtue of their position, the demands faced by leaders of bridging organizations can be a real shock. The common metaphor of an organizational "pyramid", with leaders poised on the pinnacle, is not a very good description of bridging organizations. Effective bridging organizations link many organizations that are jealous of their own interests and unwilling to subordinate themselves to each other in any hierarchical sense.

Effective leadership calls for negotiation more than command, collaboration more than confrontation, synthesis to create shared visions and perspectives more than implementation of well-defined plans.

Bridging and global interdependence

There is much talk of democratization and pluralism in the NGO community these days, given political changes in many countries. But there is a dark side to the decline of centralized, one-party regimes and the rise of political pluralism. In some cases central controls may be replaced by fragmented special interests that produce polarization, violence and political paralysis.

Generally, interdependencies among organizations, regions and nations appear to be on the rise around the world. Contacts across cultural, economic and political differences are increasingly required in a variety of contexts, and those contacts too often produce misunderstanding, antagonism and escalated conflict.

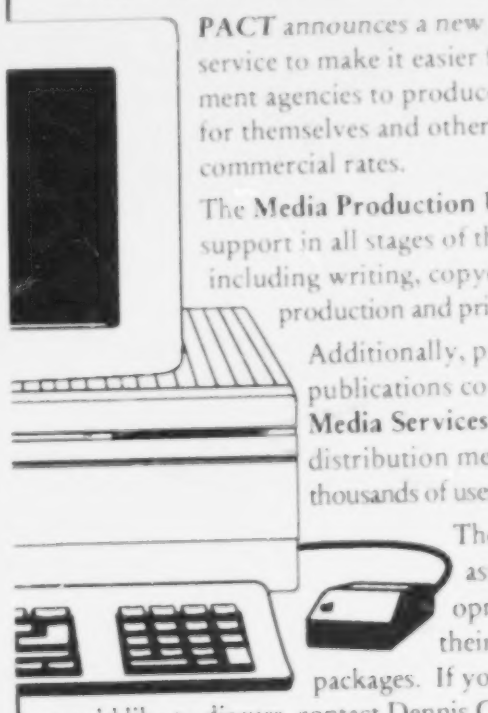
NGOs are potential laboratories for creating leadership skills and organizational mechanisms for managing such problems. Bridging organizations often face, in microcosm, challenges that reflect the tensions of global interdependence. The NGOs that grapple effectively with these issues — managing differences, being accountable to many constituencies, synthesizing different perspectives, providing leadership that does not rely on formal authority — can make major contributions to solving dilemmas characteristic of large-scale social change and development. ■

Effective leadership calls for negotiation more than command, collaboration more than confrontation.

L. David Brown, president of IDR, is also professor of organizational behavior at the Boston University School of Management. His research and consultation interests focus on the role of voluntary action and institutional innovation in social change and development.

ADVERTISEMENT

Media Production Unit
for International Development Agencies



PACT announces a new electronic publishing service to make it easier for non-profit development agencies to produce high quality materials for themselves and others at a savings over commercial rates.

The **Media Production Unit** (MPU) offers support in all stages of the publishing process, including writing, copyediting, graphic design, production and printing.

Additionally, producers may have their publications considered for the **PACT Media Services Catalogue**, a valuable distribution medium which reaches thousands of users in the U.S. and overseas.

The MPU is now ready to assist agencies in the development and production of their publications and media packages. If you have a project you would like to discuss, contact Dennis Coluccio or Lorraine Moneypenny at **PACT, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017 USA. Tel.: (212) 697-6222; Fax: (212) 692-9748**

PACT
Private Agencies Collaborating Together
An International Consortium

Africa

Voices from Africa: War, Armed Conflict, Destabilisation.
United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS), Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

The articles in this book, the third in a series, were written by African development practitioners around the theme of war, armed conflict and destabilisation in Africa. Taken as a whole, the contributions reflect a number of common features to the roots of armed conflict in Africa: the colonial heritage, uneven regional development, territorial insecurity, ethnic tensions, competing religious ideologies, external intervention, the monopolization of power and development resources at the centre, and the conflict unleashed in southern Africa and elsewhere by the existence of the minority-ruled *apartheid* state of South Africa.

The book's aim is to enable African development practitioners and writers from NGOs, the research community and elsewhere, to share their work, concerns and ideas on the development issues, problems and challenges facing their continent. Also, to give the Africans themselves the opportunity to express their views to an international readership.

The fourth *Voices from Africa*, now being prepared, deals with the broad theme of "culture and development", and NGLS would welcome any comments or suggestions from readers.

Water

Women, Water and Sanitation, Annual Abstract Journal.
International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC), PO Box 93190, 2509 AD, The Hague, Netherlands. $30.00 (3 issues), $17.50 (single copy).

Many projects have involved women in the preparation, implementation and maintenance of new water supply and sanitation facilities. To ensure that studies on the functions and effects of women's involvement reach a wide audience, IRC has prepared this bibliographic journal, to be published in 1991, 1992 and 1993.

The journal builds on a 1985 comparative study, *Participation of Women in Water Supply and Sanitation: Roles and Realities*, which reviewed over 800 documents, most of which were written by authors from developing countries.

The present journal was produced in close co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) PROWWESS project (Promotion of the Role of Women in Water and Environmental Sanitation Services). Each issue will contain a state-of-the-art summary and some 50 abstracts of selected books, reports and audio-visual materials.

Among the subjects covered are women's involvement in project preparation, design and implementation; maintenance, training and monitoring; water use and hygiene; and benefits of water and sanitation projects.

IRC is a WHO collaborating centre with more than 20 years of experience in information management in the water sector and in the development of information capacities in developing countries.

Safe Water 2000.
UNDP, Division of Information, Room DC1-1927, One UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, United States. Available in English and French. $20.00. Specify NTSC, Pal or Secam format.

This 12-minute video from UNDP takes a look at what has been accomplished and what remains to be done in providing adequate water facilities for people in developing countries.

During the United Nations International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990), 1.35 billion people in developing countries gained access to clean drinking water, and nearly 750 million to improved sanitation. Yet, over 2 billion human beings lack safe water and sanitation facilities.

The video gives an overview of some of the activities undertaken during the decade, including technologies, participatory training and the involvement of women.

A bonus is a booklet containing the text as well as case materials drawn from Nepal, Mali, Egypt, Bangladesh, Morocco, Bolivia and India.

Aid

Foreign Aid in Practice.
Stephen Browne.
Pinter Publishers, 25 Floral Street, London WC2E 9DS, United Kingdom, or New York University Press, 136 South Broadway, Irvington, NY 10533, United States £35.00, $48.00.

The programmes of some donors respond more to commercial and strategic than to altruistic concerns; resolving the trade and debt crises will reduce the need for aid; the overall quality of aid is sufficient, but its quality is sometimes questionable—these are just a few of the findings in this book on foreign aid, which has now become the "business" of some 25 major country donors, 10 multilateral banks and funds, 20 United Nations agencies and several hundred non-governmental agencies.

The book has two basic purposes. First it serves as a comprehensive information source about a widely misunderstood subject. It explains how aid began, how it has evolved and the precise forms that it takes. It contains facts on every major official donor and gives salient aid data on all recipient countries. Second, in explaining the manner in which aid is intended to work, the book attempts to provide an objective basis for judgement on its effectiveness. A concluding chapter examines how aid could be made to work better.

Of interest not only to those who are involved in foreign aid and development but also to anyone with an interest in widening their understanding of aid, including politicians, academics, journalists and the general public.

Women

Women and World Development: An Education and Action Guide for Making Global Connections in your Community.
Anita Mermel and Judi Simons.
OEF International, 1815 H Street, NW, 11th Floor, Washington, DC 20006, United States. $16.00.

This new handbook from OEF International shows why and how development is a global process, and why the participation of women is absolutely crucial to its success. It argues that women—whether rich or poor, educated or illiterate, well-fed or undernourished, in "modern" or "modernizing" economies—share similar daily experiences which make it easier for them to understand each other's problems. It emphasizes how the development experiences of Third World women have much to teach women in the developed world.

The handbook is clear and readable with stimulating content as well as a step-by-step orientation to what groups can do to educate themselves to become more active. It is substantively rich enough for use in classes on development and women's issues. It will help students and teachers, community activists and members of women's organizations who use its "learning by doing" process to become better equipped to think about global interdependence, to locate additional resources and to take effective action.

Information

For companies seeking partners in developing countries **TIPS (Technological Information Pilot System)** is the vehicle to assist them. An information service of DEVNET, a non-profit, non-governmental organization sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), TIPS is designed to expand technology and trade transactions of developing countries. It offers daily bulletins in different sectors and a query service to match supply and demand.

The sectors covered are agro-industries, biotechnology, building materials, business opportunities, chemicals,

electronics, energy, fisheries, food processing, machinery, mining, packaging, pharmaceuticals and textiles.

TIPS maintains a database containing more than 35,000 records of offers and requests from the South. Its national offices, which are in daily contact with companies, are based in countries that represent more than two-thirds of the population of developing countries.

Firms wishing to have their requirements registered in its database and featured in the bulletins can get in touch with:

TIPS, Via Panisperna, 203, Rome 00184, Italy. Tel. (39-6) 482-6967; Fax (39-6) 482-8838.

Calendar

4-6 December 1991
Health: A Conditionality for Economic Development? Breaking the Cycle of Poverty and Inequity, Accra, Ghana.

The aim of the forum will be to find a new path for economic and social development in the twenty-first century that includes the vulnerable and disadvantaged people. Their vulnerability may stem from the physical environment in which they live, their workplace, their employment status, age or other factors. The outcome is reflected in early death, poor health status indicators and, as a result, low productivity which adds further to their already precarious position.

Paradoxically, it is women who are among the most disadvantaged, even though they shoulder much of the responsibility for social and economic development. Many women still lack the necessary health care and educational opportunities; they have poor or nonexistent access to credit and other essential financial services; and they lack the appropriate technology to alleviate their work and ameliorate the quality of their lives.

The world is going through a series of crises, the most persistent and far-reaching of which is economic. During such difficult periods, the precarious situation of the poorest and most disadvantaged is always heightened.

How can this situation be reversed? Where austerity measures are being implemented, how can the impact on women be mitigated and prevented? If governments are unable to cater to the needs of all, what are the options?

The answers may not be new in themselves. What is new is the combination of elements that can bring about the breakthrough which is so desperately needed. This is the challenge to be taken up by participants at the forum, co-sponsored by the government of Ghana and the World Health Organization (WHO).

For more information, contact A. El Bindari Hammad or C. Mulholland, Office of the Director-General, WHO, 20, Avenue Appia, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland; or R.J. Mettle-Nunoo, Non-Formal Education Division, Ministry of Education, PO Box M 45, Accra, Ghana.

7-15 October 1991
Golden Antenna 91—Sixth International Film/Video Festival on Telecommunications and Electronics, Geneva, Switzerland.

The festival, hosted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), provides an opportunity for the general public, as well as specialists, to evaluate the progress made in the telecommunications and electronics fields, and its impact on the human and socio-economic spheres of today's world. Already, 78 entries have been received from 18 countries and the Commission of the European Communities, European Broadcasting Union and Eutelsat.

An international jury will view the productions by category. Awarding of points will be based on the audio-visual impact, the content/purpose achieved and the promotion of telecommunications at the national and international levels.

The Golden Antenna 91 will be awarded to the best production. Silver and Bronze Antennas will go to first and second prize winners. The awards ceremony will take place on 13 October 1991 at ITU headquarters.

For further information, write to Golden Antenna 91 Secretariat, Public Relations Division, ITU, Place des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland. Tel. (41-22) 730-5248; Fax (41-22) 733-7256.

23 November-3 December 1991
International Dialogue and Training Programme at Grameen Bank, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Sponsored by the Grameen Bank and Grameen Trust, the programme aims to bring together those who have initiated or are interested in initiating credit programmes along the lines of Grameen Bank. The workshop will provide the opportunity to gain exposure to Grameen Bank. Doing so with practitioners from other countries will make the programme more dynamic for participants. Proposals to initiate projects will be jointly reviewed by all participants.

For more information, contact Maheen Sultan, Grameen Trust, Mirpur Two, Dhaka 1216, Bangladesh.

18-21 November 1992
International Conference on the New World Order: A Challenge to International Leadership, New Jersey, United States.
Call for papers.

Proposals for research papers, roundtables and panels are invited in the following areas:

READEX FICHE

Canada and the new world order: a roundtable; New decade for women; World food agenda; International science and technology for development; Caribbean in the 1990s: integration or fragmentation?; New information order—what happened to it?; Global environmental agenda—defining priorities; Global strategy for shelter to the year 2000; Appropriate housing technology and urban development.

An African economic community: an idea whose time has come; Health and AIDS in the Third World; A revitalized United Nations system; The North American economic community: will it materialize?; The new pacific century; Third World women—people, power and politics; Human rights and justice; Economic privatization, business entrepreneurship and development; The Children's Summit—the forgotten commitment; Towards a new Middle East.

New partnerships in Third World development; The right to be informed vs. the duty to inform; The Latin American economic community: mastering the crisis; South-South co-operation in the new world order; The communication and management of development; Education for development vs. development education; The new world order: will it last?

Please send proposals by 15 November 1991 to: Mekki Mtewa, executive director, Association for the Advancement of Policy, Research and Development in the Third World, PO Box 70257, Washington, DC 20024-0257, United States.

Appropriate tech

Outreach Information Pack, Nos. 74, 75 and 76.

These information packs are the first in a series on appropriate technology. No. 74 is an introduction. No. 75 focuses on education, and No. 76 is on water. Future issues will deal with food, shelter, health, energy and transport. Completing the series will be Outreach packs that include learning leaflets on appropriate technology.

Each issue features articles, stories, individual activities, class/youth activities and resources. Beautifully illustrated with line drawings, cartoons and diagrams.

Outreach information packs are available in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic.

James Connor, Outreach Director, Teaching and Learning Dept., 200 East Building, 239 Greene Street, New York University, New York, NY 10003, United States.

Fellowships

Pathfinder International, an international family planning organization, is offering two fellowships for qualified candidates to pursue research related to **family planning practice** in developing countries.

Applicants must be doctoral candidates in a social science discipline (sociology, anthropology, economics, education, political science, law, management, demography and statistics) who are actively, or interested in, researching a topic related to fertility and family planning. Priority will be given to candidates with limited or no previous overseas experience in a developing country setting. Fluency in Spanish is required for candidates interested in Latin American placements.

Research topics include adolescent fertility, reproductive health, reproductive decision-making, male attitudes towards family planning, women's status and family planning, and financing and sustainability of programmes. Fellows will spend three to six months in the country of study (Mexico, Kenya, Bangladesh, Brazil, Peru and Pakistan).

For more information, contact Pathfinder International, Nine Galen Street, Suite 217, Watertown, MA 02172, United States. Tel. (617) 924-7200; Fax. (617) 924-3833.

Development

DAARA is a non-profit, grassroots organization which responds to the needs of rural communities within Senegal, West Africa. The three-year-old organization unites scholars, technicians and farmers in hopes of creating self-sufficient communities.

Its objectives are to support environmentally sustainable self-help projects within rural communities; to establish a widespread literacy programme; to offer technical training; and to promote cultural understanding and exchange by inviting students and researchers to analyse development issues.

The first DAARA, which is a Wolof word meaning rural school or training centre, was initiated by Cheikh Amadou Bamba in 1880 to contribute to the agrarian and social reform of the country. DAARA takes into account the motivations of people within rural communities and provides the means and organization to initiate self-help projects.

DAARA is seeking to establish partnerships with other development agencies.

DAARA, Permanence 2573, Ave. Cheikh Amadou Bamba, Dakar, Senegal, West Africa; or DAARA, c/o Cheikh Anta Dia, development consultant, PO Box 891, Peter Stuyvesant Station, New York, NY 10009, United States.

Contests

The Council on International and Public Affairs, a non-profit group concerned with public policy research, education and publishing, announces an **essay contest on the social dimensions of capitalism**. The shares of most publicly traded business companies are owned by institutional investors, employees and individual investors who have the savings or credit needed to buy these shares. Participants are invited to explain, within 5,000 words, how such companies can be persuaded to distribute ownership of some of their shares beyond the circle of these traditional owners.

Awards of $5,000, $2,000 and $1,000 will be given to winners.

To give contestants the opportunity to study the results of the last essay contest, complimentary copies of *Equitable Capitalism: Promoting Economic Opportunity through Broader Capital Ownership* (The Apex Press, 1991. $18.50) are available. However, it is not necessary to read the book in order to enter the contest.

The deadline for entries is 31 December 1991. Each essay must be accompanied by an "entry and agreement form" and a one-page summary or abstract.

For more detailed information, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: 1991 USOP Essay Contest, Council on International and Public Affairs, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, United States.

Attention all readers: A survey

Please take five minutes to complete this reader survey and return to the address below. For your help, we will send you a complimentary 1991 United Nations map of the world. If there are multiple readers of your copy of *Development Forum (DF)*, please make a photocopy of the survey rather than clipping it from this copy and fill it out. Our readers have always been a valuable resource for the newspaper. If you know someone who should receive *DF*, complete item 16. The information you provide here will give us a better sense of what your needs are and how we can improve the publication. We will be updating our subscription lists on the basis of your response.

1. My field of work is:
   - ☐ Non-governmental organization
   - ☐ media
   - ☐ government
   - ☐ academia
   - ☐ business
   - ☐ multilateral
   - ☐ other: _____

2. The highest level of education that I have reached is:
   - ☐ secondary/high school
   - ☐ university graduate (BA and MA)
   - ☐ advanced graduate (PhD, MD, etc.)

3. I read *DF*: ☐ regularly ☐ occasionally
   I read: ☐ my own copy ☐ friend's ☐ at library
   I am a subscriber: ☐ yes ☐ no
   If yes, since 19_____

4. The copy of *DF* I read is shared by other people:
   ☐ yes ☐ no If yes, how many_____

5. I consider *DF* a major source of information about United Nations development activities.
   ☐ yes ☐ no

6. I read *DF* for information about (check up to three):
   - ☐ development policy
   - ☐ economics
   - ☐ education
   - ☐ population issues
   - ☐ environment
   - ☐ developing countries
   - ☐ foreign aid
   - ☐ technology
   - ☐ culture
   - ☐ resources
   - ☐ NGOs
   - ☐ United Nations
   - ☐ women
   - ☐ children
   - ☐ health
   - ☐ other: _____

7. I would prefer more information on _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

8. I consider *DF* (check as many as appropriate):
   - ☐ as educational tool
   - ☐ as source of information alone
   - ☐ for redissemination
   - ☐ for reference purposes

9. I would be interested in getting *DF* on microfiche or via electronic database.
   ☐ microfiche ☐ database ☐ neither

10. I will pay the $25 subscription fee.
    ☐ yes ☐ no ☐ bill me ☐ cheque enclosed

11. My organization might be interested in multiple subscriptions.
    ☐ yes ☐ no If yes, how many copies_____

12. My work involves advertising. ☐ yes ☐ no
    If yes, I consider *DF* as a possible vehicle for my organization. ☐ yes ☐ no

13. My overall opinion of recent issues of *DF*:
    ☐ excellent ☐ good ☐ fair ☐ poor
    Appearance:
    ☐ excellent ☐ good ☐ fair ☐ poor
    Ease of reading:
    ☐ excellent ☐ good ☐ fair ☐ poor
    Content:
    ☐ excellent ☐ good ☐ fair ☐ poor

14. Additional comments regarding your opinion of *DF* or how you use it. _____
    _____
    _____
    _____

15. Please send my complimentary United Nations map by return mail.
    Name_____
    Address_____
    _____

16. Please send a complimentary copy of *DF* to:
    Name_____
    Address_____

17. I learned about *DF* from:
    - ☐ advertisement
    - ☐ colleague/friend
    - ☐ library
    - ☐ United Nations office
    - ☐ other: _____

(optional):
Name_____
Address_____

Return to: **Development Forum**, P.O. Box 5850 G.C.P.O., New York, NY 10163-5850, Facsimile (212) 963-1381

The forces and pressures of economic life can pull nations together or they can drive them apart. One of the great challenges of the new era is to realize the possibilities of genuine co-operation to the maximum extent that the world's resources and capacities will permit. Lasting peace will necessarily require an improvement in the human condition. This, in turn, can only be achieved through productive patterns of interaction among all members of the international community. For this a renewed commitment and more focused efforts are required to stimulate and achieve economic development and social progress, particularly in the developing countries.

Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
secretary-general
United Nations

Development Forum is the single regular publication of the United Nations system in the field of economic and social development. It is published by the United Nations Department of Public Information for the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) and is supported by its member organizations.

The members of JUNIC include:
UNICEF
United Nations Children's Fund;
UNCTAD
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;
UNDP
United Nations Development Programme;
UNEP
United Nations Environment Programme;
UNFPA
United Nations Population Fund;
UNITAR
United Nations Institute for Training and Research;
UNRWA
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees;
UNU
United Nations University;
UNCHS
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements;
UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
WFC
World Food Council;
ICJ
International Court of Justice;
INSTRAW
International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women;
ITC
International Trade Centre;
WFP
World Food Programme;
ILO
International Labour Organisation;
FAO
Food and Agriculture Organization;
UNESCO
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;
ICAO
International Civil Aviation Organization;
WHO
World Health Organization;
IBRD
World Bank;
IMF
International Monetary Fund;
UPU
Universal Postal Union;
ITU
International Telecommunication Union;
WMO
World Meteorological Organization;
IMO
International Maritime Organization;
WIPO
World Intellectual Property Organization;
IFAD
International Fund for Agricultural Development;
UNIDO
United Nations Industrial Development Organization;
IAEA
International Atomic Energy Agency;
GATT
General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Development Forum

Editor-in-Chief:
Hisashi Uno;
Deputy Editor-in-Chief:
Paul Heath Hoeffel;
French Editor:
Sylvie Périn;
Editorial Assistants/Typesetters:
Carmen Lagdameo, Esperanza Velez *(English edition);*
Lina Kawaja *(French edition);*
Typesetter/Graphic Design:
Amy R. Wells;
Photo Assistant:
Jane McDonald;
Development Business *Editor:*
Evelyn Samore;
Editorial Assistants:
Lileith Baker, Lolita Sia;
Circulation Manager:
Dinah del Rosario;
Circulation:
Gina Bocaya, Nena P. Villena, Kathy Adametz;
Administration:
Martha I. Salgado;
Treasury:
Armie Decepida;
Liaison Unit, Washington, D.C.:
Brent D. Anderson, Daphne O'Connell.

Typographic design:
Graphic Presentation Unit, United Nations.

The Spanish edition is produced under the supervision of Mario Zamorano, director of the United Nations Information Centre in Mexico City, who is aided by Cristina Gómez-Llata de Prieto and Itxaro Goikoetxea.

The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily represent or reflect those of the secretary-general or the secretariat of the United Nations. Unless copyrighted, reprints are authorized; permission is not required. Signed articles must bear the author's name. Attribution would be appreciated but is not necessary. Unsolicited manuscripts may not be acknowledged or returned.

Published six times a year in English, French and Spanish. Annual subscription is US$ 25.

Development Forum,
P.O. Box 5850, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163-5850, USA. Telephone: (212) 963-1516. Telex: 422311 UN UI, Telefax: (212) 963-1381.

Printed in the USA
ISSN 0251-6632

Mention of commercial firms, services and products in advertisements does not imply the endorsement of the United Nations or any member of its family of organizations.